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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

- Soviet Fleet Visits Mozambique in Bid To Deter South African Raids
(M. Hough; REPUBLIQUEIN, 9 Mar 81) 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

- Islamic Ties Rediscovered in Bid for Assistance
(8 DAYS, 14 Mar 81) 4

IVORY COAST

- Assembly Approves 'Austerity' 1981 Budget
(FRATERNITE MATIN, 1, 2 Mar 81) 5

Budget Figures
Text of Law

- Joint Maneuver To Test Military Coordination With French
(FRATERNITE MATIN, 3, 6 Mar 81) 8

Details of Maneuver Plan, by Kouassi Kokore
Joint Maneuver Objectives

- Problem of Old Cocoa, Coffee Plantations Discussed
(FRATERNITE MATIN, 4 Mar 81) 11

KENYA

- Assembly Approves Appointment of Sessional Committee Members
(Robert Irungu; DAILY NATION, 12 Mar 81) 12

- Reduction in Assembly Session
(DAILY NATION, 12 Mar 81) 13

- Slowdown in Last Year's Economic Growth Expected
(DAILY NATION, 13 Mar 81) 14

Kanu Youth Wing To Assist in Maintenance of Law and Order (THE WEEKLY REVIEW, 13 Mar 81)	16
Government Increasing Food Research Funds (THE WEEKLY REVIEW, 13 Mar 81)	17
Excessive Optimism in Area of Food Production Rapped (Editorial, Hilary Ng'weno; THE WEEKLY REVIEW, 13 Mar 81).	18
Government To Continue To Import Foodstuffs (DAILY NATION, 13 Mar 81)	19
Building Industry Africanization (DAILY NATION, 11 Mar 81)	20
Briefs	
Grassroot Elections Scheduled	21
Increased Police Asked	21

MOZAMBIQUE

Political, Organizational Offensive Has Not Ended (Editorial; NOTICIAS, 18 Mar 81)	22
Briefs	
Damaged Cabora Bassa Power Repaired	24

NIGERIA

Defections Reported From NPN to NPP (DAILY STAR, various dates)	25
Entire Community 'Mass Defection', by Sam Chike Aniocha Local Government Area, by Lawrence Nwabufo Prince, Party Chairman Ekoyi People, by Eugenia Eze Isiogbo People Aguata Local Government Area, by Obi Udefuna Igbo-Eze LGA, by Emeka Mamah Legal Practitioner, by Roy Graham Ngwo People, by Obi Udemefuna	
Further Reportage on Economic Projects (Various sources, various dates)	32
Construction of Metallurgical School Computer Center More Industries for Kwara Tannery To Be Built, by C.C. Chiagva Expansion of Paper Mill Cotton Board Bank Branch, by Egwu Egbunike	

New Agricultural Project, by A.B. Tapidi
 Bauchi Electrification
 Asbestos Industries, by Abu Bakar Umar
 Money for Agricultural Projects, by Ibrahim Ahmed Biu
 Agricultural Extension Schemes
 Wheat Production Acceleration, by Leke Salau
 Power Plant Spare Parts

Further Reportage on Various Labor Strikes
 (Various sources, various dates) 41

Imo Public Servants
 Doctors' Strike Deadlocked
 Technical Workers' Strike Threat, by Adio Saka
 Anambra Employees' Strike Over, by Emeka Mamah
 Doctors' Demands Analyzed, Editorial

Niger Civil Servants Barred From Tribal, Other Clubs
 (Ibrahim Ahmed Biu; NEW NIGERIAN, 6, 11 Mar 81) 45

Circular Letter
 Directive Deplored

Still 110 Companies Reported Not Indigenized
 (NEW NIGERIAN, 7, 16 Mar 81) 47

Act in Effect, by Edet Charles
 Firms Closed for Non-Compliance, by Moses Olorode

Briefs

Radar for All Airports 49
 Kerosene for Villages 49
 Abuja Plot Allocation, Electricity 50
 Anonymous Threat to Legislator 50
 Religious Ban Still Valid 50
 Governor: Drop Census Figures 51
 Abuja Water Shortage 51
 Plateau Lifts Preaching Ban 51
 Police Occupy Marble Industry 52
 Onitsha Airport Construction Postponed 52

SEYCHELLES

SPPF Branch Elections Get Off to Good Start
 (NATION, 9, 15 Mar 81) 53

Elections in Six Districts
 More Elections

President Rene Calls for Full Recognition of SADR
 (NATION, 18 Mar 81) 55

Nyerere, in Transit, Gets Enthusiastic Welcome (NATION, 17 Mar 81)	57
Details on President Rene's New Book Given (NATION, 15 Mar 81)	59
Hodouli Calls for Increased Third World Trade (NATION, 20 Mar 81)	60
Rupee Revalued To Combat Inflation (NATION, 17 Mar 81)	61
Militarization of Indian Ocean Hit (Editorial; NATION, 10 Mar 81)	62
Reportage on Search for Alternative Sources of Energy (NATION, 7, 14, 18 Mar 81)	64
Cheaper Fuel	
Use of Wood Bits	
Sea Power	
Tourism Boost Expected From Gulf States (NATION, 18 Mar 81)	68
Ferrari Discusses Agrarian Reform, Land Distribution (Maxime Ferrari Interview; NATION, 7 Mar 81)	69
Families Settling in at New La Cogue Village (NATION, 14 Mar 81)	71
Census Update To Start in April (NATION, 13 Mar 81)	73
Briefs	
Maldives Minister Leaves	74
SPPF Elections	74
Minister Berlouis in Tripoli	74

SOVIET FLEET VISITS MOZAMBIQUE IN BID TO DETER SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS

Windhoek REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 9 Mar 81 p 4

[Article by columnist M. Hough: "Soviet Vessels Off Mozambique Create Concern"]

[Text] The presence of Soviet warships in Mozambican harbors now constitutes an ominous indication of Soviet strategy in Africa.

The reason cited for their presence is the friendship and cooperation treaty entered into between the USSR and Mozambique in 1977. Another reason is the Russians' intention to defend Mozambique against further "South African aggression."

Once we begin casting about for actual motives several other possible factors appear to be of significance under the circumstances.

First off, the Soviets are eager to gain a foothold in Mozambique like the one they already have in Angola. Along with this it is evident that they also want to stem South Africa's economic influence in southern Africa and at the same time throw their full support behind the ANC.

This clearly indicates that the ANC is being supported in an effort to realize Soviet objectives in southern Africa. It is also obvious that they want to see a pro-Soviet ANC regime in control of South Africa, not a moderate black administration.

As a result they will pressure countries like Mozambique to continue supporting the ANC and they will endeavor to protect Mozambique against South African retaliatory raids.

In the wake of the criticism heaped on the USSR after its invasion of Afghanistan, it is also evident that the Soviets want to regain the prestige they lost in the eyes of the African countries. They reason that by showing effective resistance to South Africa they will win over the goodwill, especially of the more radical African countries.

It is also obvious that the Russians want to show the new Reagan administration that they are not prepared to yield unconditionally to U.S. pressure against

their support for terrorists. The Soviets look on such movements as "national liberation fronts" and view them as important political and military levers in pursuit of Soviet objectives. Accordingly they also reject charges that their support for such organizations constitutes interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Soviet naval presence also serves as a show of force, making it into an attempt to try and deter South Africa from any more retaliatory raids.

A real problem is likely to arise if the Soviets provide the terrorists with greater logistical support. That not only may signal improved defense for terrorist bases, it will also possibly interfere with South Africa's retaliatory raids.

South Africa is even now doing its best to avoid contact with FRELIMO troops. The reason given is that South Africa's retaliatory raids are primarily aimed at the ANC, not FRELIMO.

The problem, however, is that most ANC bases are situated right in Maputo itself. This contrasts with the retaliatory raids carried out by former Rhodesian defense forces against, for example, bases concentrated in the bush country of Mozambique, and later on rail lines and bridges in Mozambique.

It is unlikely that Soviet troops are currently taking an active role in defending Mozambique. The Soviets prefer to wage "war by proxy." Except for East Europe, Afghanistan is still the only place where Russian soldiers are actively deployed.

To be sure, the hope is that the United States will now exert greater pressure on the Soviets not to support terrorists. But for South Africa the catch is that the United States will apparently expect something in return.

And what it wants is for South Africa to restructure its domestic policies. Only then will the United States establish closer ties with South Africa.

Unfortunately it is not altogether clear precisely what a "complete overhaul" of racial policies in South Africa is supposed to mean. Moreover, radical African countries are not going to be content with anything less than a black government.

Still, South Africa does have other weapons besides retaliatory raids to counter terrorism. Over the long term our economic ties with Mozambique may bear fruit. That is, once Mozambique starts realizing that the Russians can provide, almost exclusively, only weapons and no real economic assistance.

But the economic ties linking South Africa and Mozambique need not necessarily signify that South Africa is "feeding terrorists." If need be, the economic ties can be construed as a bargaining chip.

The important thing for South Africa is to demonstrate unequivocally its determination to resist terrorism and intimidation and by making internal adjustments,

where called for, to eliminate real grievances. In so doing, it will deal a blow to terrorist recruiting and infiltration.

Nevertheless, as long as the West does not more effectively neutralize the Soviets in Africa, and so long as countries like Mozambique are ready to collaborate with the Soviets in support of the ANC, it is going to be difficult to bring about peace and stability in southern Africa.

CSO: 4408

ISLAMIC TIES REDISCOVERED IN BID FOR ASSISTANCE

London 8 DAYS in English 14 Mar 81 p 33

[Text] The former Portuguese West African colony of Guinea-Bissau is rediscovering its links with the Islamic world in a bid to tap new sources of foreign aid. Natural Resources Minister Samba Lamine Mane attended last month's Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia and obtained promises that the Islamic Bank would provide soft loans to finance 60,000 tonnes of emergency rice imports. His trip was followed up last week by a two-day visit to Pakistan, the country designated by the Islamic Conference to provide the rice shipments.

Drought-stricken Guinea-Bissau has been chronically dependent on food imports since independence in 1974, but until the overthrow of President Cabral in a coup last November the country neglected to cultivate its Islamic connections. Although about 60 per cent of Guinea-Bissau's 800,000 population is Muslim, the country's political elite is predominantly Christian.

Last November's coup was warmly welcomed by Lisbon's influential Islamic community, which accused deposed President Cabral of disregarding Islamic interests just as strongly as the Portuguese did in their five centuries of colonial rule which preceded his coming to power. Faced with a drastic economic crisis and uncertain political stability, it was natural that Guinea-Bissau's new ruler, former Prime Minister Joao Bernardo Vieira, should turn to the open arms of the Islamic world.

The 60,000 tonnes of rice promised by the Islamic Conference are intended to form a buffer food stock in times of crop failure, and represent twice as much as the total food aid pledged by Guinea-Bissau's traditional western aid donors since the coup. Yet the country remains open to both new and old influences. Vieira, who heads the ruling council of the revolution, recently called for the return of Christian missionaries to help run Guinea-Bissau's schools and hospitals.

Nevertheless, chronic rice shortages in the capital Bissau and the council of the revolution's ability to distribute food from a newly-arrived ship immediately after the 14 November coup were major factors in winning the new leader popular acclaim.

CSO: 4420

ASSEMBLY APPROVES 'AUSTERITY' 1981 BUDGET

Budget Figures

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 1 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] An amount of Fr 376 billion for the General Operating Budget and the sum of Fr 272.351 billion for the Special Investment and Procurement Budget, a total of approximately Fr 650 billion for 1981: such is the draft finance act which had been under study for several days by National Assembly members and which was adopted about 2000 yesterday evening. The National Assembly thus approved the finance act for this year. With regard to the first of these budgets, it may be noted that there is an 11.1-percent increase, whereas the second budget was reduced by 17.9 percent. This means that this is an austerity budget of about Fr 40 billion less (in comparison to the previous budget), submitted about 1 week ago by Mr Abdoulaye Kone, minister of economy and finance, to the members of parliament. In approving this budget, they are aware that they are thus permitting our country to continue its march forward in spite of a particularly difficult world economic situation.

Text of Law

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 2 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] The Office of the President of the Republic announces: The president of the republic has promulgated, with publication according to the emergency procedure, to become effective 1 March 1981, the law of 27 February 1981 concerning the 1981 finance act, whose text reads as follows:

Law No. 81-150 of 27 February 1981 Concerning the Finance Act for 1981

The National Assembly has adopted and the president of the republic has promulgated the law which reads as follows:

First Part: General Conditions for Financial Stability

Title II: Stability Measures

Measures of an Economic Nature

Article 1. With a view to affecting prices, the government may declare tax exemptions in the case of utilitarian products intended for current consumption.

Tax Arrangements

Article 2. For the implementation of its program, the government is authorized to take, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the constitution, measures relative to: the institution, assessment, rate and procedures for collecting taxes, fees, duties and contributions of any nature due to the government and public agencies in order to complete the tax reform implemented in application of Law No. 59-250 of 31 December 1959.

Article 3. Tax legislation is subject to an amendment appended to the present law.

Title II: Financial Stability

Provisions Relative to Authorized Resources, Taxes and Revenues

Article 4. Subject to the tax provisions which will be implemented under the present law, direct or indirect taxes and public proceeds and revenues will continue to be collected for 1981 in accordance with current regulations. Unamended parafiscal taxes will likewise continue to be collected and implemented in accordance with previously established procedures.

Article 5. Proceeds and revenues applicable to the 1981 General Operating Budget shall total 376 billion francs.

Second Part: Special Resources and Provisions

Title I

Article 7. With regard to the limit of the ceiling established in Article 6 of the present law, it is open for 1981 in the case of operating expenses, public services and funds applying to:

Title I, Contractual Debts, in the amount of	2,575,000,000
Title II, Public Agencies and	
Title III, Service Facilities, in the amount of	215,432,730,000
Title IV, Joint Expenses, in the amount of	72,470,240,000
Title V, Transfer and Interventions,	
in the amount of	<u>85,522,030,000</u>
	376,000,000,000

Article 8. The ceiling for guarantees granted by the government and stipulated in Article 53 of the law of 31 December 1959 organizing public finances, is set at 400 billion francs for 1981.

Article 9. The outstanding total of government loans and advances shall not be more than 1 billion francs in 1981.

Title II: Provisions Relative to Related Budgets

Article 10. The income and expenditures of budgets related to the General Operating Budget are set as follows for 1981: Related budget of Department of Public Works' Equipment: 3,768,565,000; related budget of University Hospital Center: 1,577,000,000;

related budget of National Printing Office: 497,870,000; related budget of Ivorian Radio and Television: 2,916,815,000; related budget of Ivorian Press Agency: 499,365,000.

Title III: Provisions Relative to National Public Establishments

Article 11. The budgets of national public establishments for 1981 are set at the amounts appended to the present law.

Title IV: Special Provisions

Article 12. The president of the republic is authorized to take, by decree during 1981, measures which are normally within the province of the law. These decrees shall be submitted for ratification by the National Assembly no later than the end of the second annual session.

Article 13. The present law will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of the Ivory Coast in accordance with the emergency procedure and enacted as a national law.

Executed in Abidjan, 27 February 1981.

11915
CSO: 4400

JOINT MANEUVER TO TEST MILITARY COORDINATION WITH FRENCH

Details of Maneuver Plan

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 3 Mar 81 p 5

[Article by Kouassi Kokore]

[Text] As a prelude to the French-Ivorian military maneuvers to be held from 7 to 12 March in the west, in the areas of San-Pedro, Seguela, Man and Touba in particular, the military attache to the French Embassy in the Ivory Coast, Colonel Martin, spoke to the Ivorian general staff on Wednesday, 18 February, about French foreign field forces.

This talk, which took place in Camp Gallieni's conference hall, was in the presence of Gen Ibrahim Coulibaly, inspector general of FANCI (Ivory Coast National Armed Forces School), Gen Zeze Barouan, chief of staff, and his assistant, Colonel Zinsou, and several Ivorian and French officers.

From the outset, Colonel Martin described his job of introducing his country's armed forces as unnecessary, inasmuch as our officers and noncommissioned officers are familiar with French armed forces through the training which they have received, the equipment used and technical military assistants working in close cooperation with them.

But Colonel Martin also pointed out that in view of the upcoming French-Ivorian maneuvers, he considered it useful to introduce foreign field forces to his Ivorian colleagues in the inter-services context in which the maneuvers will take place.

After noting that one of the principal missions of French overseas forces is to contribute to the security of countries with which France has defense agreements, Colonel Martin recalled that France and the Ivory Coast concluded a defense agreement in April 1961.

The colonel then listed the three ways in which France operates.

1. It operates in terms of French military personnel, officers and noncommissioned officers. Of the nearly 1 million technical assistants which France has worldwide, there are about 110 in the Ivory Coast.

2. Direct aid. In this case, France sends material or offers training grants: each year more than 200 Ivorian trainees, officers and noncommissioned officers from various units, are sent to France.

3. In the event of a crisis and at the request of the country threatened, France operates through its foreign forces. This aid may in turn be viewed in three ways: indirect action--reinforced technical assistance in terms of personnel or material without engagement of forces; or France can provide logistic support; or France may simply engage its forces in the conflict. The colonel examined this last form of aid at length.

Definition of Foreign Action

Foreign action is an urgent, unexpected, particular, official but limited political-military reaction which obviously involves the reputation of France and French armed forces.

The main features of such action can be derived from this definition: --the speed of launching the operation; --discretion in preparing and supervising operations; centralization at the highest level; --finally, the engagement of limited but perfectly trained forces.

In the final part of his address, among other things Colonel Martin stressed the means and possibilities of gathering intelligence, transport capabilities, fire support, organization and flexibility of use.

In his conclusion, the military attache said that in a certain way a foreign operation will be carried out on the occasion of these so-called BAFING [Ivorian river] maneuvers, which will ultimately be characteristic of a foreign operation, and the information to be obtained cannot fail to be useful to both our countries.

The talk was followed by a 15-minute film. The officers were shown pictures of Lebanon in 1978, Cambodia and Chad in April 1980.

We should note, finally, that in connection with these French-Ivorian maneuvers a demonstration of trench-crossing equipment (two Gillois) will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, 4 March, at 0930 alongside the lagoon opposite Houphouet-Boigny Stadium in the presence of the minister of defense and civic service.

Joint Maneuver Objectives

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 6 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Prior to the kickoff of French-Ivorian military maneuvers tomorrow morning, Gen Zeze Barouan, chief of staff of Ivory Coast national armed forces, has made a statement which we believe should be published.

The first mission of the armed forces is to defend the integrity of national territory against all forms of aggression. In peacetime, they prepare for this mission through the instruction, physical, moral, civic and technical training of men and tactical instruction of officers and noncommissioned officers. This preparation is

supplemented at the high-command level by defense plans which are appropriate responses to possible threats. It was from this standpoint that selection was made of the area in which the French-Ivorian 81 maneuver, with the code name of "Bafing" (a river on the border of the departments of Touba and Biankouma), will take place between 7 and 12 March 1981.

The zone of operations includes the departments of Sassandra, Issia, Bouafle, Mankono, Seguela, Biankouma, Man and Guiglo.

Bafing 81 appears to be a large-scale operation.

Actually, this zone is susceptible to a simple threat (attack by a single enemy) or combined threats (attack by a coalition of forces).

Our defense forces are generally trained through national maneuvers. This was the purpose of the "MEROU" exercise in 1980.

By engaging French units alongside all Ivorian forces and all equipment available to our country, Bafing 81 has a certain number of objectives in view.

From the inter-services standpoint, this French-Ivorian exercise is meant to be one of the many applications of the defense agreements which have existed between France and the Ivory Coast since the dawn of our independence. In this connection, the objectives are: a) to train staffs for the joint preparation and supervision of inter-services operations; b) to train French and Ivorian units (present and reinforcement forces) to operate together; --organization and use of a unified French-Ivorian command for supervision of operations if necessary; --testing of time limits for amphibious, airborne and helicopter operations; --use of surface-to-surface artillery as fire support; use of surface-to-air artillery as protection for ground and infrastructure units; --operation of Bouake air base with the use of alphajets, the latest component of our defense apparatus as air coverage in fire support.

This is the first time that a maneuver of such scope will take place in the Ivory Coast. In particular, it will include the use of an Ivorian staff to supervise all joint operations.

11915

CSO: 4400

PROBLEM OF OLD COCOA, COFFEE PLANTATIONS DISCUSSED

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 4 Mar 81 p 8

[Excerpt] The department of Abengourou, which formerly constituted with the Boucle du Cavao region a tandem whose agricultural production commanded admiration, is today exhausted. And for good reason: its coffee and cocoa plantations are old, although a relative increase in production over previous years was noted this year. These two crops represent the principal operations of the farming population, which accounts for 80 percent of the department's total population.

With regard to coffee production, the planted area can be estimated at 112,000 hectares, with 89,000 hectares in production. Only 16,188 tons could be harvested from this vast area in 1978. Production declined (16,177 tons) the following year, then rose to 24,500 tons last year due to exceptional rainfall. The season has just begun this year, but we know already that production is satisfactory because of the glut which the UTPA [expansion unknown] plant is experiencing and the problems of farmers in selling their produce.

The situation is the same in the case of cocoa, only 62,000 hectares of which are in production out of a planted area of 106,000 hectares. Actually, although a slight increase in production each year may be noted, the percentage is relatively slight in comparison to what it was 7 or 8 years ago.

This is because the vast majority (60 percent) of the coffee and cocoa plantations in the Abengourou region are 35 to 40 years old. The varietal reconversion and re-generation projects have not met with the necessary response among planters, who appear very reluctant to use these techniques, even anticapsid treatment of trees. And yet the Agni are one of the first Ivorian peoples to know and cultivate coffee and cocoa. The root of the problem, of course, lies with the aging of the plants, but also and probably more with the lack of manpower for carrying out cleaning and harvesting operations.

Most Agni planters own very large private plantations which they were able to put together during the prosperous years of 1945-60 thanks to the hard work of our then disadvantaged northern countrymen and nationals from neighboring countries, who migrated en masse into the area. The reality is quite different today and landowners find themselves with huge areas which they cannot maintain by themselves. The problem is so difficult that Agni planters are today forced to sell their plantations at very low prices to foreigners or even to abandon them outright, thus producing a mood which is helping to impoverish the region, particularly since the outward flow of capital is being channeled to other regions, if not to other countries.

11915

CSO: 4400

ASSEMBLY APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 12 Mar 81 p 5

[Article by Robert Irungu]

[Text] THE National Assembly approved the appointment of 20 members of the Sessional Committee under the chairmanship of Vice-President Mwai Kibaki.

Moving the motion, the Vice-President, who is also Leader of the Government Business, assured those who have not yet served in the committee that they will have their chance before the disbandment of the Parliament.

He told the House that members are appointed on a rotation. He said other MPs will be appointed to other various committees of the House.

Mr. Kibaki explained to the Members the importance of the committee, saying it will be responsible of sorting out all motions that come to the House.

The motion was seconded, by Constitutional and Home Affairs Minister Charles Njonjo who told the House that the committee members were well selected.

For those who have not been appointed to the committee, Mr. Njonjo said: "Our time will come."

The committee members included the Deputy Leader of Government Business and Livestock Development Minister James Osogo who will be the committee vice chairman, Dr. Robert Ouko (Foreign Affairs Minister), Dr. Jonathan Ng'eno (Basic Education Minister) and Mr. Nicholas Biwott, Minister of State.

Assistant Ministers in the committee are Mwacharo Kube (Higher Education), Charles Murgu (Livestock Development), Peter Ejere (Co-operative Development) and Philip Leskey (Environment and Natural Resources).

The remaining members are L. S. Sifuna (Bungoma South), Krishna Gautama (Parklands), S. H. Said (Mombasa North), M. A. Karuri (Nyambene South), A. N.

Mwida (Mombasa South), Kenneth Matiba (Nairobi), M. G. Bosire (Wanjare South/Mugirango), G. H. Liban (Moyale), Eddah Gachukia (Nominated), J. B. Mulwa (Makueni) and P. A. Anyumba, (Winam).

Supporting the appointment, Tourism Minister Elijah Mwangale said the distribution was the best. He said this being the Nyayo Parliament, whoever was appointed a member of the committee represents all.

Mr. Mwangale told the House that it is quality that mattered and not the quantity. He appealed to the members of the committee to ensure that the session was a busy one. He said Parliament sit for 120 days a year.

He appealed to the committee to ensure that every MP was given chance to table questions.

An Assistant Minister for Industry, Mr. Henry Warithi, supporting the motion, said he was quite happy with the committee composition but added that when a committee is appointed it should meet.

Mr. Warithi said most of the House committees did not do anything last year after meeting and appointing chairmen. He, however, commended the committee system of the Parliament.

REDUCTION IN ASSEMBLY SESSION

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 12 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] THE Vice-President, Mwai Kibaki, yesterday called for the sitting days of the Kenya National Assembly to be reduced.

He was replying to a motion on the appointment of members of the sessional committee. The assembly had the longest sitting sessions in Africa, he said.

Last year, the House met for 100 days which had been too long, he added.

He proposed that the House should meet for only 90 days a year so as to give MPs time to concentrate on development projects in their areas. It was vital for MPs to get enough time to stay in their areas and establish themselves properly, he said.

Considering working days per year, 100 days were more than half a year, he said. The session committee would propose a schedule for sitting during the year, he said.

Some African parliaments met for only 30 days a year and some were limited to "yes or no" deliberations.

Replying to a point raised by Industry Assistant Minister, Henry Wanjithi that some committees did not meet often, Mr Kibaki said committees did duties as they arose.

If an issue did not arise there was no need to meet, he said.

CSO: 4420

SLOWDOWN IN LAST YEAR'S ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPECTED

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 13 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] Last year's economic growth is expected to be less than 3 per cent when the final computations are made.

According to the Central Bank Economic and Financial Review, drought and the world recession caused the slowdown.

The drought hit production of tea, cereals, livestock and dairy products. Electricity cuts, also blamed on the drought, caused a fall in manufacturing output.

The recession cut demand for primary commodities and combined with the drought to lower farmers' incomes.

Manufacturing output is expected to have increased by only 4 per cent from July to September—compared to 7 per cent for the same period last year.

A decline is also expected in the figures for the building and construction industries.

The drought caused a fall in the delivery of food crops from January to September: maize deliveries fell by 49 per cent and wheat by 7 per cent.

Imports in the first five months amounted to Sh. 6,448 million during the same time the previous year—an increase of 42 per cent.

This reflected the importers response after relaxation of import measures towards the end of 1979.

Export receipts in the same period amounted to Sh 4,255 million compared to Sh. 2,965 million, the previous year, the July-September review said.

"The increase in exports is explained by the good performance in coffee and petroleum products exports." This was in spite of a fall in world coffee and tea prices.

The review showed that taxes on goods and services rose 36.7 per cent from the previous year.

Revenue from income tax also rose 36.2 per cent from the 1979 figure for that quarter to Sh. 1,664.6 million. Revenue from other taxes rose by 23.5 per cent to Sh. 53.1 million.

During the quarter, the balance of payments recorded a deficit of Sh. 1,000 million compared to a deficit of Sh. 518 million the previous quarter, and a surplus of Sh. 629 million for the same quarter in 1979.

CSO: 4420

KANU YOUTH WING TO ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 13 Mar 81 p 17

[Text] JUST when doubts were being raised regarding the role of Kanu youth wingers in the party, President Daniel arap Moi, last week, instructed the youth wingers to assist police in the maintenance of law and order. This move is being viewed in most quarters as an intensification of the campaign against crime throughout the country. But more so, party officials claim that the involvement of the youth wingers in the anti-crime campaign is the commencement of the rejuvenation of the party, whose effectiveness has lately been an issue of much debate.

When he addressed the Kanu youth wingers from Uasin Gishu District a week ago, Moi said, "Chiefs and police cannot detect all crimes being committed in various parts of the country, the youth wingers should be a welcome complementary force." That the activities of some youth wingers have been received with scepticism by the Kenyan population is a fact that the president was certainly aware of. While he warned that failure to appreciate the well-intended anti-crime campaign by party youths would dampen their morale, he also had a word of caution for the youth wingers. Said the president, "Your work is to arrest and hand over the evil people to police and no more."

But just as Moi was issuing instructions to the youth wingers, the Bungoma Kanu branch youth leader, Mr. Francis Wafula, was complaining about the increasing number of

"bogus" party youth wingers illegally searching homes within his jurisdiction. Wafula, who was calling on the police to contain the menace, said in a press statement that party youth wingers and other employees of the party in the branch had been issued with identification documents.

At the party headquarters in Nairobi, the stage seems all set for the re-organisation of the youth wingers' activities. The party's national secretary-general, Mr. Robert Matano, the minister of co-operative development, told *The Weekly Review* on Tuesday that the party was set to appoint a national youth leader, a women's wing leader and revenue officers. According to Matano, these posts are provided for in the party's constitution, and once they have been filled "the party will certainly be reactivated."

Matano and other party insiders agree that the party youth wingers have been somewhat relaxed, a situation they all attribute to the "inactivity" at Kanu headquarters. It appears that Moi has now set the cue and Matano and some members of the party hierarchy are promising to rekindle the party fire. Said Matano, "We shall make sure the party's youth wingers are recruited officially from the headquarters. . . they will help in the registration drive for party membership as well as keeping vigilance over criminals." ■

GOVERNMENT INCREASING FOOD RESEARCH FUNDS

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 13 Mar 81 p 22

[Text] THE delicate food situation in the country following the food shortages of last year, seem to be spurring on planners to focus more attention on food production. In the midst of the shortages last year, the government pledged to formulate a food policy, but little has been heard of the proposed food policy a year or so after the announcement except that an original draft presented to the government was later sent back for revision. In line with the efforts to formulate a national food policy, the government is increasing its research funds. During the period covered by the fourth development plan (1979-83), research is expected to consume about shs. 300 million. The research work is carried out on 30 research stations equipped with laboratories manned by 300 scientific personnel. Staffing is still apparently less than ideal, falling far short of the required 700 research workers.

According to the development plan, more emphasis in agricultural development should be utilised on arid and semi-arid areas. A major orientation in the research work is aimed at devising ways of utilising arid areas to boost food production. The need to bring more marginal land under cultivation has been spurred by the high rate of population increase. Towards the end of 1978, the then minister for agriculture, Mr. Jeremiah Nyagah, called for a proper study of rural

agriculture methods while preparing development plans in agriculture. But research efforts are hampered by the inability of the government to attract and retain competent scientific and technical staff. A report in 1978, said that shortages of competent staff were mainly felt in the fields of plant pathology, entomology and horticulture.

The report predicted that the shortage of trained scientific personnel would be about 1,475 and 2,400 people by 1990. By the year 2000, the shortage would be more than 5,000. However, plans to double the intake of diploma students at Egerton College would greatly reduce these projected shortages to 230 in 1990 and 1,022 in the year 2000. Other major priorities of research involve periodic animal censuses. Estimates for cattle, for instance, have over the years ranged from a little over 4 million to 9 million herd of cattle. It has therefore not been conclusively established whether or not Kenya has enough stock to meet domestic needs and for export.

EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM IN AREA OF FOOD PRODUCTION RAPPED

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial by Hilary Ng'weno]

[Text] THE ministry of agriculture was late last month still talking of a projected crop of 30 million bags of maize for Kenya during the current season. This is the same old talk of a bumper maize crop which we thought the government had decided to silence. Thirty million bags of maize is nearly 10 million bags more than the most optimistic of estimates by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and even though the ministry of agriculture has tried to wiggle out of its wild estimate by saying that its 30 million bag figure is predicated on good rains, the fact remains that someone in government is still unaware of the dreadful implications of over-optimism in the area of food production. If we have good rains, we will have a bumper crop, is a statement on the same level of practicality as saying that if Kenya strikes oil we shall all be rich. Both kinds of statements have the unfortunate effect of diminishing the sense of urgency policy makers charged with providing enough food (or energy) for the country should have. In the case of the maize harvest estimates, one fears that not enough has been learnt by the ministry of agriculture about the dangers of wrong statistics. Late 1979 and early 1980 the ministry made it a point of quoting statistics to try and prove that the food shortages which were looming on the horizon were figments of journalists' imagination. The shortages turned out to be only too painfully real. Let us hope that the 30 million bag figure was a slip of someone's tongue, otherwise it is time that Kenya looked at its machinery for crop harvest forecasting within the ministry of agriculture. If ministry crop forecasters need better training, let the country give them the training they require. In the meantime it were better if they kept their fingers crossed and their mouths shut.

CSO: 4420

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO IMPORT FOODSTUFFS

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 13 Mar 81 p 5

[Excerpt]

THE Government will continue to import food — but not as much as in the past year — until yields improve, Vice-President Mwai Kibaki said.

Mr. Kibaki said MPs should particularly be in a position to explain the situation to the people.

Mr. Kibaki was outlining import priorities.

He said food and milk were at the top of the list so far, followed by agricultural inputs, oil, raw materials — particularly for industries, machinery, equipment for ongoing projects, industrial spare parts and pharmaceuticals.

He was moving a record of thanks for the exposition of public policy contained in the Presidential address to the House on Tuesday.

Mr. Kibaki said there was no way for Kenya to return to pre-inflation times.

He told the MPs to reciprocate the freedom given to them by the President. He said people should avoid the temptation to quote parts of the President's speech.

Noting that many theories were being bandied about concerning the problem of money flow from the banks, he wondered where the banks were expected to get money from in the current situation.

CSO: 4420

BUILDING INDUSTRY AFRICANIZATION

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 11 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] AFRICANISATION in the building industry is reported to have risen from 6 to 9 per cent since President Moi's directive that Africans be considered for contracting jobs.

The chairman of the African Contractors Association Councillor Nahashon Kanyi, has now called on the Ministries of Works, Water Development, Transport and Communications and other public bodies to give priority to his members in construction jobs.

Coun. Kanyi, who is the Nyeri Mayor, was speaking to members of the Nyanza branch of his association at Kibuye Parish Hall. He said the organisation had set up a technical advisory committee to help upcoming African contractors

to meet the challenges of the building industry.

He regretted that Africanisation of the industry in Nyanza Province was not as encouraging as in the rest of the country.

Coun. Kanyi, accompanied by association general secretary Karanja Kigathi and committee member Samuel Wanjohi, is on a tour of Nyanza Province to assess the progress in getting African builders more contracts.

He said African contractors were fully insured by the National Construction Company and there was no reason why they should not be given big contracts.

Asking his members to apply early for tendered contracts, Coun. Kanyi said technical help was available to them.

—KNA

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

GRASSROOT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED--Kanu grassroot elections will be held this year. President Moi announced this yesterday in his speech during the State opening of the second session of the present Parliament. He said he would ensure elections at local level were arranged and conducted as soon as possible, "certainly within the present calendar year". The last grassroot elections were held over four years ago. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 11 Mar 81 p 1]

INCREASED POLICE ASKED--The Government has been urged to step up police patrols in Ongata Rongai and Kiserian, Kajiado District. Three residents who called at Nation House yesterday complained that armed thugs had been terrorising the area since December. Messrs. Simon Nyotu, Daniel Moseka and J. B. Olepere said the bandits struck at night. They said the matter had been reported to Ngong Police station but had been told the station was undermanned. "Two people were shot at Kiserian Shopping Centre in December. In February, the thugs attacked a Mr. Josphat Kianduna in his own house. Last Saturday they shot dead another resident of the area," the residents noted. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 13 Mar 81 p 4]

C90: 4420

POLITICAL, ORGANIZATIONAL OFFENSIVE HAS NOT ENDED

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 18 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Balance Sheet of the Offensive"]

[Excerpts] To survey today, the 18th of March 1981, the results of the Political and Organizational Offensive, is certainly an ambitious, risky and indispensable undertaking. One year ago, we received from our leader the password aimed at ridding the state apparatus from its internal enemies. Today, we must ask: Did we accomplish the task? Have we been energetic, radical, enlightened enough in the fight against the enemy who had infiltrated our structures? Before attempting this delicate balance sheet, it is timely to analyze some aspects under which the offensive is viewed.

For some people, for example, the offensive is like a sudden downpour: while it lasts, they quietly take refuge under a tree or a doorway. When the rain stops, they continue on their way, happy that they only got a few drops. These people do not perceive (they do not wish to do so) the deep meaning of the offensive, its staying power. They do not want to get wet (read: change) and they believe they can avoid the rain indefinitely.

These people, meanwhile, do not speak ill of the offensive; on the contrary, they believe that it has already solved all the problems, and can therefore be discarded. They think that things can now return to "normal," and as is well known, "normal" means "our deficiencies." In practice, we witness the return to complacency, indifference to errors, inadequacy, fraud.

This is the attitude which opens the door to physical and ideological infiltration. Whoever thinks like that already belongs to the enemy, or is in the process of being won over.

Other people, however, believe that the offensive should be like a hurricane: a powerful storm that would sweep everything in its path and go away. But not everything was swept away: they therefore believe that the hurricane did not rage through, that it did not accomplish its mission. In other words, that it was not worth the trouble. These people use one thousand and one reasons, one thousand and one examples, to prove that the offensive was a failure, that it did not change anything or, even if it did, that things became worse.

If we observe these people closely, we shall easily notice that they themselves did not change, or, if they did, that they have become worse. Since they view Mozambican society in their own image, they maintain that nothing has changed in Mozambican society. At the same time, they use this argument as an alibi for their own inability to change.

At first sight, these two views are fundamentally opposed to each other: however, they have the same ideological roots, and, above all, the same effect; in both cases, these are people that reject the changes implied and demanded by the offensive. They are two concrete expressions of the internal enemy's ideology, and consequently present two very clear targets for the offensive (which is still going on, whether they like it or not).

What, then, are the results of the offensive that we can enumerate today, the 18th of March 1981?

Let us say, first of all, that deep changes have taken place in our state apparatus as a direct result of the offensive. In ports and airports, in air transportation, in the supply and other sectors, these changes are visible in the improved quality of the services. However, the cultural dimensions of the offensive, the transformation it brought to concepts and mentalities, are more important. Thanks to the offensive, we do not accept as natural indifference, corruption, incompetence, indiscipline and routine. Thanks to the offensive, we are now more demanding, we understand better the worth of discipline and of organization. The fact that we are better aware of the importance of planning is also an effect of the offensive. As a result, the activities of the mass organizations have been more rigorously analyzed. Through the offensive, the working classes of our country, led by our party, renewed the offensive in the class struggle.

This is a highly positive balance sheet. However, it should not make us forget that we have a long and arduous road ahead, that there are many sectors where the gale of the offensive has not been felt yet, where the huge broom has not swept yet. It cannot make us forget that the bourgeoisie is attempting to use the offensive for its own ends, reducing it to a mere administrative process that deprives it from its revolutionary meaning.

It is not enough that the balance sheet of the offensive is positive. It is important that our own determination to carry it through to its ultimate end should also be positive.

CSO: 4401

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

DAMAGED CABORA BASSA POWER REPAIRED--Lisbon--Power supplies from Mozambique's Cabora Bassa dam to South Africa have been partially restored after cuts caused by guerilla sabotage, the president of the dam company said. Mr Antonio Martins, head of the Portuguese Government-controlled Cabora Bassa hydro-electric company, said one of the two power lines feeding South Africa had been repaired, but the other remained down due to flooding.--Ziana-Reuters. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 20 Mar 81 p 14]

CSO: 4420

DEFECTIONS REPORTED FROM NPN TO NPP

Entire Community

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 18 Feb 81 p 16

[Text]

THE entire Owerre-Ezuka community in Orumba, Aguata Local Government Area, is now solidly behind the Nigerian Peoples' Party (NPP), and the government of Chief Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo.

This was as a result of an open mass declaration ceremony performed in the town at the weekend when more than 4,000 former NPN members and officials resigned from the NPN and declared for the NPP.

Among them were the former chairman, Mr Nwogu Nwogu organising secretary, Mr Emma Nduche treasurer, Mr Law Nwosu secretary, Mr P. C. Madu publicity secretary, Mr Clem Odogwu and other officials of the NPN in Owerre-Ezuka.

It will be recalled that half of the population of the town voted for the defeated candidate for the Federal House of Representatives in the town, Mr James Uba, while the other half voted for the NPP candidate from Enugu town, Mr Dennis Onwuzurike.

The ceremony during which all the declarants signed forms of membership for the NPP, also marked a grand civic reception for three sons of Aguata East Constituency in Anambra State government, Mr Sylvester Igboekwe Oryido (Agutagburubeya), Mr Hyacinth Ikukeme, and Mr Chuka Nwosu.

In a welcome address, the Owerre-Ezuka community said that the civic reception and the mass declaration for the NPP was as a result of the magnanimity shown to the town by the NPP government in the state through the appointment of their sons in government, and award of the contract for the construction of the Nnewi-Ekwulobia-Umunze-Owerre-Ezuka Road.

'Mass Defection'

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 19 Feb 81 p 2

[Article by Sam Chike in the column "Political Diary": "Mass Defection From the NPN"]

[Text]

THE continuing political disarray and nemesis that have set in motion the nation-wide disintegration of the NPN, which could result in its political transition have now become a matter of serious worry and concern to the hierarchy in the NPN.

Some insiders who are now critical of the party's political future strongly believe that the party's ideology based on naira unlimited, import licence deals, Abuja contracts and destabilisation policies of states is losing the party support in the country.

But these groups warning are having minimal or no effect because they are not financially wealthy and have no political influence.

The hard-core members who have grown too fat on financial fortunes, deals and contracts believe that with time, money will deliver the states of the federation to the NPN. It dishes out hundreds of naira notes in Lagos and everywhere to buy individuals.

But Nigerians have not found out that there is future for them under party of the establishment and property-owning class and elite while the majority of poor Nigerians are starving and wallowing in abject poverty.

The latest in a series of defections from the party which have reached epidemic proportions is in Kaduna State.

Five stalwarts of the NPN have left the party and declared for the UPN. The exodus did not stop here, as the top men were followed by more than 100 NPN members.

The five former NPN giants with large following lamented that the NPN is a party of motley crowd of dubious characters without political direction.

Four of the five latest defectors are Aihaji Bello Gangarunwa, the former NPN Secretary in Kigachikun Local Government Area Kaduna, Aihaji Mudi Mohammed NPN Secretary in Tudun Wada Zaria, Aihaji Audu Bonaji and

Aihaji Ibrahim Madaki both NPN members in the Kano area of the state.

In the Western Yoruba states the story is the same. Even if the NPN gives N1 million to every Yoruba man, woman and child and gives a Mercedes Benz each, it cannot buy any one of them.

In other parts of the country, defections from the NPN are going on unabated. The party has distributed contracts to some Igbo political turncoats. But the people of Anambra State have rejected the NPN. Democracy is being "crucified" by NPN in Nigeria. It is the poor that will pay the price.

Those Igbo traitors are merely enriching themselves while the rest of the masses are knee-deep in poverty. The NPN should realise that buying out a few such individuals with bundles of naira notes will not win for them the hearts of the generality of the population.

Aniocha Local Government Area

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 20 Feb 81 p 16

[Article by Lawrence Nwabufo: "\$50,000 Declare for NPP in Bendel"]

[Text]

MORE than 50,000 supporters of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) in Aniocha Local Government Area of Bendel State have declared for the Nigerian Peoples' Party (NPP).

Declaring for the NPP at Ogwuashi-Uku over the week-end, the NPN leader, Chief F. C. Nwanji, said that it was absolutely necessary to transfer their loyalty and support to the NPP.

Chief Nwanji pointed out that the NPN had in its fold a few heavy deadweights who were opportunists, fortune seekers, grabbers and sharp canker-worms whose stock-in-trade at all times was to always eat up

the fibre of any political stability with the slightest opportunity.

He revealed that the party stalwarts lack discipline, democratic approach to political matters and above all, good administration and feelings for one another.

Chief Nwanji said that it was because of this glaring lack of good administration on the part of the NPN that his supporters read the hand-writing on the wall and declared en masse for the only humane, progressive and hate-free, well-organised and disciplined party, the Nigerian Peoples Party.

He reminded the people of Aniocha Local Govern-

ment Area that the NPP was the only party that would save Aniocha from the clutches of the enemies of progress.

On the question of creating Aniocha State out of the present Bendel State, Chief Nwanji told his supporters that only the NPP was capable of giving them their cherished state.

Replying, the leader of Onitsha NPP delegation, Mr Ben Ntephe, praised the people of Aniocha for declaring for the NPP and urged them to work relentlessly for the progress of the party.

Later a new NPP secretariat was opened at Ogwuashi-Uku by Chief Nwanji.

Prince, Party Chairman

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 23 Feb 81 p 3

[Text]

THE Nigerian People's Party (NPP) membership has continued to increase as members of other political parties have been declaring for NPP en masse.

The former UNPP candidate for Nsukka-West Constituency during the last elections, Prince David Agu Onah, and an NPN chairman, Edem chapter in the same constituency, Mr Michael Amoke, have declared for the NPP with their supporters.

At a mass rally at Kuum in Nsukka local government area at the weekend, Prince Agu Onah and Mr Michael Amoke in declaring for the NPP, said they decided to join the party after a careful study of its programme and what the government of Chief Jim Nwobodo has been able to achieve in so short a time in Anambra State.

They said that the present government has been able to tar roads and reconstruct so many others

which have been neglected for long.

They pledged their loyalty and that of their numerous supporters to the NPP and what the party stands for.

In his own speech, the NPP chairman, Idemah chapter, Mr George Ugwu, told those who declared for the party that they will not be discriminated against and praised their courage in joining the NPP.

In another development, the chairman of the NPP Youth Wing at Ugwu, Idemah local government area of Anambra State, Mr Alex I. Okator, and his supporters have declared for the NPP.

Mr Okator said that their action was as a result of their observation that the

NPP is the only party that has the welfare of the people at heart.

He added that they had discovered that the UPN was only interested in causing confusion and discord in the country with its unholy campaign designed to make brother rise against brother.

The UPN chairman in Idemah local government area, Mr S. Ugbona Uramize, has also declared for the NPP.

Mr Uramize, who said that he had been in Chief Awolowo's political campaign since 1968, said his declaration was in order to receive political blessing from the Owele of Onitsha, Chief (Dr) Nnamdi Azikiwe, the NPP leader.

Ekoyi People

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 23 Feb 81 p 3

[Article by Eugenia Eze]

[Text]

THE entire community of Ekoyi - Ihaka in Igbo Eze East constituency has declared en masse for Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP).

This was made known during the inaugural ceremony of the (NPP) youth wing, Igbo Eze East constituency in Ekoyi recently.

Present at the ceremony were Mr Mathew Eze, the chairman, caretaker committee Igbo Eze and the chairman of (NPP) in Igbo Eze East constituency; Hon Alexander Omeke, the representative, Igbo Eze East in the House of Assembly.

Others included Hon Sylvanus Obeta representative for Igbo Eze North in the House of Assembly and the chairman of NPP in Igbo Eze Local Government Area and also Mr Kenneth Oso, commissioner in the Local Government Service. In their address, the community explained that they took this decision because they have realized that it is only the NPP that brings relief to the downtrodden of the common man.

They stressed that the dynamic and able leadership of His Excellency, Chief Jim Nwagwu Nwobodo is not to be paralleled and pledged their untiring support to the Governor and his government.

They also assured that the forthcoming local government election in the area would be a walk over in favour of the NPP.

In reply to their address, the chairman, Mr Mathew Eze, expressed satisfaction that the community had realized their folly by identifying themselves with other political parties.

"To be with the NPP he maintained, is to be with the majority." "Strength" he emphasized, "is power." Mr Eze however warned that they must convince the party of their loyalty by actions. Also speaking, Mr Sylvanus Obeta commended the people for realizing that those who misled them in the past did so to enrich their pockets only.

Isiogbo People

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 25 Feb 81 p 4

[Text]

THE entire Isioibo community of Nara in Nkanu Local Government Area has declared en masse for the Nigerian People's Party (NPP) and the dynamic leadership of Governor Chief Jim Nwobodo.

The people also paid glowing tribute to the governor for his un-

flinching determination to salvage the image of the Igbo people in general and the suffering masses in particular.

These facts were made

known at Nara during a rally organised by the state Co-ordinator of the Public Enlightenment Committee, Chief S. A. Onyia.

Aguata Local Government Area

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 3 Mar 81 p 16

[Article by Obi Udefuna]

[Text]

THOUSANDS of placard-carrying demonstrators last Thursday marched through most of the streets in Aguata local government area to pledge their loyalty to the Anambra State governor, Chief Jim Nwobodo. (See photo).

The people, who chanted "war" songs as they demonstrated, said they were forced to speak out because of the oppressions they were getting from NPN supporters in the area.

Aguata local government is the home area of the vice-president, Dr Alex Ekwueme.

Some of the placards read: "We are solidly behind Jim Nwobodo", "Nwobodo is dynamic", "Nwobodo, we are behind you" and "Aguata is for

NPN". The people expressed dismay that NPN supporters who were bought with money had continued to cause trouble in Aguata.

An address read by the community congratulated Chief Nwobodo for awarding contract for the construction of Nnewi-Ekwulobia-Ufuma Umunze-Owerre Erukala road, his stand on the controversial Revenue Allocation Formula, and also for the up-grading of Oke College of Arts and Science to a College of Arts and Science and Technology.

They also expressed gratitude to the government for making available \$100,000 for the rehabilitation of Ekwulobia General Hospital, the award of contract for the laying of water pipes from Obizi water scheme at Uga to solve water problem in

other areas.

The demonstration, which was held under the auspices of the Aguata Cultural Union and the Aguata Progressive Union, later presented their case to the local government chairman for the area, Mr G.N. Moutolu.

Replying, Mr Moutolu promised that he would always discharge his duties to the best of his abilities.

He told the people to go about their business since there was no cause for alarm.

Also speaking to the people, the chairman of Aguata leaders of thought, Chief Ernest Okoli expressed dismay at the way some senators disappointed the people of Anambra State during the voting for the Revenue Allocation Formula, and called on them to resign.

Igbo-Eze LGA

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 4 Mar 81 pp 1, 16

[Article by Emeka Mamah]

[Text]

OVER 50,000 supporters of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) in Ette, Igbo-Eze local government area of Anambra State last Saturday declared for the Nigeria People's Party (NPP).

The people who were from the 12 towns which make up the area, said in a ceremony to mark the occasion that they had changed their mind about

the NPN because they had realised that it was only the NPP that could cater for the masses in this country.

According to the people "our decision which was made during a mass rally held on February 23, 1981 to opt for the party is also as a result of our conviction that the NPP is never a tribal party as was the notion down here during the last elections in 1979".

The people, who were from the Idoma-speaking areas praised the open-door policy of the party which they added was being demonstrated by the State governor, Chief Jim Nwobodo.

The following protem officers were elected to pilot the affairs of the party in the area: Mr Haruna Eneche, chairman; Joseph Ayegba, Secretary; Levi Omasi, first vice chairman; Idoko Eje, second vice chairman, and Adejo Ameh, third vice chairman.

Others were Mr Christopher Eze, Treasurer; John Amedu, publicity secretary; Dom Okara, Financial secretary and Mr Joseph Okwori, provost.

Madam Inyama Idoko was elected chairlady of the women's wing of the party.

Also at the rally, the former chairman of the Great Nigeria People's Party (GNPP) in the area, Mr Silas Abba declared for the NPP.

Mr F.C. Omeh, another staunch member of the NPN in the area also announced that he had

resigned his membership of the party and joined the NPP.

Addressing the new members later, the chairman of the NPP for Igbo-Eze, Mr Sylvanus Obeta, thanked them for "taking a wise decision at the right time."

Mr Obeta who represents Igbo-Eze North constituency in the State House of Assembly, however, urged the people to be steadfast in their decision because "up the NPN would soon arrive with their bags, ill-gotten money to deceive you".

In his own speech, the leader of the party in the area and member for Igbo Eze in the House of Representative, Mr Daviu Omeka, told the people that NPP believed in right to self-determination, adding that effort would be made to ensure they would not be discriminated against.

Legal Practitioner

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 5 Mar 81 p 16

[Article by Roy Graham]

[Text]

AN Enugu legal practitioner, Mr E. O. E. Nwegbene has openly declared for the Nigeria Peoples Party (NPP).

Mr Nwegbene said that his open declaration for the NPP was necessitated by the recent turn of events over a revenue allocation formula for the country.

The Enugu legal practitioner said that the ganging up of the NPN, PRP and the GNPP to give 58.5 per cent revenue to the NPN-dominated federal government had led him to believe that "our people's salvation in this country lies in embracing the NPP fully and totally so that we

can continue to effectively hold the balance of power politics in the country."

Mr Nwagbene noted that "to allow our people to be assimilated by the NPN would be tantamounting to committing political suicide, selling of our political birth-right and, worse still, lead to a pollution of our culture.

He said that in declaring for the NPP he was guided by the firm belief that an industrious and progressive stance could only be assured in a mass movement of the people represented by the NPP with a free choice to befriend whomsoever it wishes without being teleguided by outward forces."

Ngwo People

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 12 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by Obi Udemefuna]

[Text]

More than 400 supporters of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) in Ngwo Umu Udi Local Government Area of Anambra State have decamped from the party and declared for the Nigeria People's Party (NPP).

Ngwo is the home town of the defeated governorship candidate of NPN in the state, Mr C. C. Onoh and a strong base of the Party, during the 1979 elections.

In a rally to mark the occasion, the people said that they were joining the NPP because it was the only Party that has the interest of the masses at heart and which did not discriminate against the electorate irrespective of their Party affiliations.

A spokesman of the people, Mr Adolphus Ozoude noted that the NPP in the state under the leadership of Governor Jim Nwobodo has demonstrated its open door policy by distributing social amenities equitably.

Mr Ozoude enumerated some of the government's achievements which included the launching of the rural electrification programme, equal distribution of amenities to all the communities in the State and relief fund to the fire victims.

He expressed gratitude to Chief Nwobodo for making available the sum of ₦50,000 in aid of the 9th mile-corner fire victims.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ECONOMIC PROJECTS

Construction of Metallurgical School

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 20 Feb 81 p 16

[Text]

THE Minister for Steel Development, Mallam Mamman Ali Makele, has ordered that construction work must begin immediately at the permanent site for the Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha so as to meet the October, 1981 deadline for the school to start.

Mallam Makele told the director and present project co-ordinator of the institute, Engineer Tim Efobi, that "money is no problem". The President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari he

added, was very serious about the project and had budgeted for it this fiscal year.

The minister was recently speaking at Onitsha while inspecting the 74 hectares acquired for the project between Okpoko Quarters and the Idemili River, by the Anambra State Government.

The land was handed over to the Federal Government by the Anambra State Commissioner for Industries, Mr M. Ukuta.

Computer Center

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 2

[Text]

THE Federal Ministry of National Planning is to establish a regional training centre in informatics in the country.

The centre, when established, would work in collaboration with the inter-governmental bureau for information (IBI) to produce middle-level manpower.

The Minister of National Planning, Mrs. Ebun Oyagbola, announced this while declaring open the conference on application of Mini and Micro computers, organised by the Computer Association of Nigeria and UNESCO/IFIP in Ibadan yesterday.

Mrs. Oyagbola stated that her ministry would like to see a situation created, in which the

application of computers in all fields was largely undertaken by Nigerians.

She said this would put Nigerians in a position to control the destiny of their country.

She said Nigerians should be in a position not only to operate computers but to manufacture informatics equipment.

To achieve this goal

she said, the association should offer concrete suggestions to the government on how best to apply computers for the benefit of the country.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor S. O. Olayide, urged participants to strive to build a foundation which the future generation would be proud of.

More Industries for Kwara

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 2

[Text]

THE Kwara State Deputy Governor, Chief J. O. A. Shittu, has restated the plan of the administration to industrialise the state.

This, he said, was in keeping with the electioneering campaign promise to establish at least one industry in each part of the 12 local government areas.

Chief Shittu said this while welcoming the Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Dr. I. J. Igbeni to his office in Ilorin.

Chief Shittu then appealed to the minister to use his good offices to help supplement the effort of the state government.

He expressed the gratitude of the state government to both the Federal Government and the Federal Ministry of Industry for their moral and financial support to the state.

The minister, replying, said he was satisfied with the projects he visited and assured that Kwara State would always be given its fair share of Federal amenities.

He said the state government should not hesitate to let the Federal Government know the areas in which her assistance was required and pledged that such would always be given adequate attention by the Federal Government.

Tannery To Be Built

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Article by C.C. Chiagwa]

[Text] A five million Naira contract for the building of a tannery in Kano has been signed between an indigenous company, Nabegu Nigeria Limited and Cotomer Leather International Company of Spain.

In his speech shortly before the signing ceremony which took place in the state capital recently, the general manager of the company, Alhaji Abdullahi Mohammed said that the reason for establishing the tannery is to help the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board in its efforts to assist Nigerians towards controlling the enterprises in this country.

He said that when completed, the tannery will process more than two hundred thousand skins monthly out of which 75 percent would be finished leather.

The company, he announced, has plans for the establishment of a modern shoe factory for the production of quality shoes as well as assorted leather goods including purses and bags.

Expansion of Paper Mill

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 28 Feb 81 p 19

[Text]

THE Nigerian Paper Mill, Jebba in Kwara State is now planning a 25 million Naira expansion programme.

The chairman of the company, Alhaji Haliru Dantoro, gave this information when he welcomed the Minister of State in the Federal Ministry of Industries, Dr. Ishmael Igbani to the mill.

When completed, he said, the expansion would enable the company to produce about 300 tonnes of paper per day while its staff strength would also increase to 2,000.

The paper mill, which was established in 1960 presently produces 40 tonnes of paper per day.

Replying, the minister gave the assurance that his ministry would recommend to the Federal Government to increase its proposed 6 million Naira assistance to the company.

He expressed satisfaction at what he saw at the mill and promised that his ministry would protect it by ensuring that no private company was given licence to import industrial paper unless such an applicant got clearance from the paper mill.

Other companies visited by the minister in the state were the Nigerian Sugar Company Bacita, Kwara Brewery, Ijagbo, Philip Morris (Nigeria) Limited Factory in Ilorin and an indigenous wrist watch industry in Bua.

Cotton Board

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 6 Mar 81 p 2

[Text]

THE Nigerian Cotton Board has been dissolved and new board appointed.

The new board, which has been approved by the Federal Government, has Alhaji Shuaibu Kassaure (Kano State) as chairman.

Others are Alhaji B. A. Akintoye (Oyo); Malam Adamu Agyo (Plateau); Alhaji Bukar Bolari (Borno); Alhaji

Mohammed Mahe (Bauchi); Alhaji Labbo Dogondaji (Bokoto); Umar Ado (Kaduna); and Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar (Niger).

A statement issued by the Board's General Manager, Alhaji Abubakar Tunso advised members to contact the Board's Head Office at Pantua, Kaduna State, for flight and other arrangements.

Bank Branch

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 6 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Egwu Egbumike]

[Text]

THE sixth largest bank in the world, Societe Generale Bank has opened a branch in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

The ceremony was performed by Governor Meliford Okilo who told the management of the bank not to make its Nigerian employees only hewers of wood and drawers of water.

He charged the federal government to borrow a leaf from international organisations by siting meaningful projects in the Rivers State.

"It is only when this was done, said the governor, that the crusade of neglect against the federal government would cease."

Earlier, the Nigerian chairman of the bank, Mr N.A.B. Kotoye said the bank was operating in more than 60 countries with over 600 branches.

With a total staff of over 40,000, the bank, said Mr Kotoye held deposits in excess of \$300 million in Nigeria and has lent more than \$200 million to varied sectors of agricultural, industrial and commercial activities.

New Agricultural Project

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 24

[Article by A.B. Tapidi]

[Text]

THE Federal Government is to develop a 300 million Naira irrigated agricultural project in the northern part of Gombe State.

The pre-feasibility studies of the project which stretch from Baaza in Michika Local Government area to Mabi, lying downstream of River Radaran have been completed.

So far, about 35,000 hectares of land has been found suitable for the development of irrigated agriculture, water supply project, fishing and possibly, hydro-electric power generating project in the area.

Contracts would be awarded within this financial year for the consultancy studies that would provide the detailed designs, engineering drawings and specifications for the development of the first phase of the project.

Senator Bitrus Kajai told newsmen in Yola, the state capital, at the weekend that the development of irrigated agricultural project

would be accomplished within this development plan.

When the project is fully developed, the Senator said, assorted grains like rice, wheat, maize and sugar cane, as well as large quantities of vegetables would be produced.

He announced that the project would be implemented for multiple water usages like irrigated agriculture, hydropower, rural and urban water supply, fisheries, tourism, flood control and reclamation.

The project is expected to provide enough water supply to the neighbourhood, fishing and source of electricity generation to the people. Thousands of farming population would gainfully be employed under the scheme, he added.

Senator Bitrus noted with satisfaction the Federal Government's diversified agricultural project in the country which, he said, would substantially change the life style of our people.

Bauchi Electrification

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 9

[Text]

THE Bauchi State Government plans to spend 45 million Naira for the electrification of 50 towns in the state during the current development plan period.

The state Commissioner for Economic Planning, Alhaji Umaru Dahiru, told newsmen in Bauchi that the programme would cover all the local government areas of the state.

He said that contracts had already been awarded under the first phase of the programme for the electrification of 14 towns and that phase two would start in 1982, during which 18 towns would be electrified.

Alhaji Umaru also said that phase three of the programme, designed to supply electricity to 18 more towns, was scheduled to take off in 1983. (NAN).

Asbestos Industries

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 24

[Article by Abu Bakar Umar]

[Text]

BAUCHI State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Tatari Ali, has observed that the establishment of the 11.5 million Naira Nigerian Asbestos Industries Limited in Bauchi, would further boost the federal as Bauchi State housing programme.

He said the factory would make available the required quality and quantity of asbestos roofing sheets. The governor was speaking at the official opening ceremony of the industry in Bauchi on Tuesday.

Governor Tatari also noted that the pressure pipe plant which is expected to take off soon at the factory would provide the essential pipes for both rural and urban water supply and also boost the green revolution programme,

particularly the dry season irrigation schemes.

In his speech, the chairman of the company's Board of Directors who is also the Bauchi State Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Alhaji Ibrahim Maza, Abubakar, said the company is owned by the Bauchi State Government, the Hyderabad Asbestos Cement Products Limited of India, the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, the Northern Nigeria Investment Limited and a number of businessmen.

He said the installed capacity of the sheet plant is 30,000 tonnes annually and that at present the firm employs over 115 people. He said the number would rise to about 250 people with the installation of the pipe plant.

Money for Agricultural Projects

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Ibrahim Ahmed Bili]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Shugu Shegari has authorised the release of a special grant of 200 million Naira for prompt implementation of certain major agricultural projects throughout the country.

Out of this amount about 100 million Naira will be utilised on rice production in conjunction with some foreign technical partners. The remaining amount will be used to develop large hectares of other farmlands this year.

This was disclosed in Minna yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, while addressing a press conference shortly before he began a three-day visit to Niger State.

The minister said that in addition to the special grant, about 400 million Naira would also be spent on agricultural development this year as against only 300 million Naira voted for the same purpose last year.

Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau further told newsmen that 600,000 hectares of farmland would be developed in each state of the federation under the newly introduced mechanised farming system.

He said that the sum of 100 million Naira contained in this year's Federal Government's budget would be used to assist peasant farmers. Such farmers, he said, would also be provided with agricultural inputs including small scale rice mills in order to process our locally produced rice so that this country could be self-sufficient in rice in four years from now.

The minister further explained that such steps were taken in order to achieve our agricultural objectives in four or five years time.

He also announced that plans had been worked out to establish storage facilities capable of containing 300,000 tonnes of farm produce this year.

Also while exchanging views with the Niger State Commissioner for Agriculture, the minister reiterated the determination of the Federal Government to encourage the production of maize so that its importation could be stopped. He advised the state government to ensure that farmers are given full assistance towards

producing maize in order to achieve this objective.

Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau also announced that the Federal Government is now seriously considering subsidising the price of insecticides by about 50 per cent. The minister is expected to visit some agricultural projects at Bida, Mokwa, Raba and Kontagora.

Agricultural Extension Schemes

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 20 Mar 81 p 24

[Text]

THE Chairman of the National Cereal Research Institute, Mr. Akinmade Abolarin, has announced that the institute would spend over 25 million Naira on setting up more agricultural extension schemes during the fourth development plan period.

Mr. Abolarin who disclosed this in Ilorin, said that about 300,000 Naira would be evenly distributed throughout the country.

He said that the institute

would cultivate a variety of cereals for use by local farmers.

It will also weed farms and harvest the crops for the farmers to sell, he added.

Mr. Abolarin said that the scheme was aimed at transferring modern agricultural technology to the farmers.

The chairman said that with the 13 stations and 16 sub-stations, as well as the institute's headquarters in Ibadan, the institute has sufficient potential to make the programme

successful.

On the Federal Government's Green Revolution programme, Mr. Abolarin said that until there were large-scale farmers who could embark on mechanised farming "we will not have enough food in Nigeria."

The chairman suggested that what the government should do is to encourage result-oriented research work, as well as subsidise agricultural implements so that more farmers could afford the necessary equipment. (NAN).

Wheat Production Acceleration

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 3

[Article by Loke Salau]

[Text]

WHEAT production in the country is to increase by about 600,000 tonnes under the first stage of the irrigation scheme of three river basins.

The river basins are Sokoto-Rima, Hadejia-Jema'are and Chad B sin schemes. Each of them will provide over 20,000 hectares of land for the production of wheat.

These facts were contained in the research findings of the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) conducted by the Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services of the Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU), Zaria.

Apart from the river basins, the report said arrangements have reached advanced stage for the construction of additional major dams specifically for irrigating land on which to grow

wheat and other cereals.

However, land levelling, poor drainage and water management have been identified as the critical constraints of wheat production in some of the irrigation schemes.

The report stated that middle of November is the most suitable time for sowing, but regretted that the wheat crop is not planted on time.

This, according to the report, is very critical considering the short growing season of 110-120 days and the limited cool period.

A planting delay of one month, the report said, could reduce the yield potential by over 20 per cent.

As regards sorghum and millet,

it was stated that both crops occupied about 10 million hectares of land in the country with a yield of about one tonne per hectare.

This production was described as far below average when compared to that of the United States of America that exceeds 3 tonnes per hectare.

To guarantee higher yield in the country, the report recommended that improved fertile soil should be used by the farmers.

On maize, it was observed that only two tonnes of fertilisers were

used. They are 'SUPA' which was recommended for maize grown in lowland areas of Plateau State and Compound fertiliser or 'KAMFA'.

The report also identified the maize diseases as stem borers, ear worms, and army worms. It recommended planting early in the season to minimise attack by diseases and pests.

The report, however, advised farmers to plant maize soon after the first rain for the early crop and at the beginning of September for the late crop.

Power Plant Spare Parts

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 p 5

[Text]

THE Federal Government is planning to build a factory to manufacture spare parts for power generating plants.

This was disclosed in Lagos yesterday by the Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Mohammed Hassan, while receiving the Vice President of the West African Region of the World Bank, Mr. D. Knox, in his office.

Alhaji Hassan said that the factory was necessary because the major cause of power instability in the country was lack of spare parts.

He said that more than 75 percent of all the money allocated to the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) was used in buying spare parts.

As a result of this, he said, "2 kobo out of every one Naira spent by the government was used for the replacement of spares."

He said that we manufacture only electric bulbs at the moment. He

stressed the need to start the manufacture of transformers and other electrical equipment to meet the demands of our local consumption.

"We cannot become industrialised without having industries", he said, saying that to acquire technology Nigeria must pursue a vigorous policy aimed at establishing manufacturing industries.

He, therefore, called on the West African Region World Bank's President to offer assistance for the execution of the projects.

He said that the World Bank had agreed to offer financial assistance in the building of the Lagos Thermal Power Station which is estimated at a cost of N70 million.

Replying, Mr. Knox said the World Bank would continue to offer financial assistance to Nigeria.

He expressed satisfaction at the way Nigeria had been using the loans given her by the World Bank.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VARIOUS LABOR STRIKES

Imo Public Servants

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 17 Feb 81 p 23

[Text]

ACTIVITIES in government offices in Imo State were paralysed last Thursday following an industrial action embarked upon by the State's Wing of the Nigeria Civil Service Union.

Government offices throughout the state were open as usual but civil servants to work.

Speaking to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Owerri, the state secretary of the union, Mr. P. B. Okoro, said that they were embarking on the industrial action following the state government's refusal to resume issues which had been subject

of negotiations with the union at various times without fruitful results.

He said that the union had on January 20 this year, issued a 21-day ultimatum to the state government within which to grant them their demands.

They are demanding, among other things, the payment of their January to March 1970 salaries, the payment of outstanding arrears of claims and allowances and the abolition of two year's maturity in a post before promotion.

The union also demanded the release of all outstanding promotions by the State's Civil Service Commission and the immediate restoration of vehicle loans and

basic allowances.

In a statement issued in Owerri, the union called on its affiliates to co-operate with its officials.

Other unions that have joined in the industrial action include the Civil Service Technical Workers Union of Nigeria, National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives and Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria.

Others are the Printing and Publishing Workers Union and the Nigeria Union of Civil Service Typists, Stenographic and Allied Staff.

Doctors' Strike Deadlocked

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Mar 81 p 13

[Text]

NO agreement could be reached between striking resident doctors and the Federal Government officials after more than four hours of negotiations in Lagos on Wednesday.

Representing the Federal Government at the negotiations was Minister of Health, Mr. Daniel Ugwu, while the striking doctors

were represented by Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) National Vice-President, Dr. T. O. Nwanter, the Secretary General, Dr. Bako Ramson-Kuti and the president of the resident doctors, Dr. B.A. Oye Adeniran.

Speaking to newsmen at the end of the negotiations, the Minister, Mr. Ugwu, said the NMA had

resolved that the government's approved allowances for resident doctors' overtime were not acceptable to them, because they were too meagre.

The NMA, he also said, rejected the allowances because it felt they were below the call allowances paid to laboratory technologists.

The minister said he had therefore, asked the association to put in writing the fact that it did not accept the government's proposals and to give reasons for doing so after which negotiations would continue.

These, Mr. Ugwu added, are to be submitted today after which negotiations would resume.

...Kaduna NMA supports NARD

THE Kaduna State branch of the Nigerian Medical Association at its executive meeting held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, has resolved to give the National Association of Resident Doctors its full support in the current industrial action. Earlier conflicting reports were due to lack of communication.

In a release signed by the chairman of the branch, Dr. Ahmed Yahuba and the secretary, Dr. J. T. Akase, the association said this support would continue until the legitimate demands of the resident doctors on the following points were met.

The points are (1) Reasonable remuneration for extra hours of work over and above the 40 hours a week. (2) Consultancy services for the medical profession. (3) Remuneration for NYSC doctors.

Speaking for the NMA Dr. Nwanter said "the situation remains the same until an agreement is reached".

But Mr. Ugwu, on his part, said if the strike action was not called off, he would terminate the negotiations and refer the matter to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity for final action that might be deemed necessary.

Meanwhile, the strike action embarked upon by resident doctors since last Monday to back up increased overtime allowances was continued for the fifth day running.

Reports from most parts of the country said consultants and

para-medical staff had been drafted to do the work of the striking doctors.

Reports from Benin say the industrial action embarked upon last Monday by resident doctors throughout the country bites harder in Benin as records clerks in the public hospitals on Wednesday refused to issue cards to patients, particularly those in the general out-patient department.

A correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the clerks' refusal followed the continued pile-up of cards already issued and un-attended to by the doctors.

"We cannot continue to work in vain because we know that the doctors will not attend to these patients now", one of the records clerks at the specialist hospital said.

At the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) however, patients on admission were receiving medical attention from the hospital's consultants.

But most out-patients who had showed up at the hospital on Wednesday were turned back by security men at the hospital gate. (NAN).

Technical Workers' Strike Threat

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 12 Mar 81 p 32

[Article by Adio Saka]

[Text]

THE Civil Service Technical Workers' Union of Nigeria has given the Federal Government up to April 1, within which to implement the 15 per cent and 10 per cent increases provided for in the 1980 Income Policy Guideline for the period 1980-82 or face the consequences.

The union also wants the government to fulfil certain aspects of an agreement signed on February 22, 1980 between the union and the Federal Establishments Department.

Addressing a Press conference in Lagos yesterday, the general secretary of the union, Mr. S.O.Z.

Ejiofor, said this should be done without any further delay to avoid an unpleasant situation in the country that might result from their action. According to him, these issues were concluded over a year ago and "we cannot wait" any longer.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ejiofor said, the council had sent an urgent letter to the Vice-President, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, who is in charge of establishments matters and

chairman of the National Council on Establishments, on the matter.

Explaining why the guideline should be implemented, Mr. Ejiofor, said on April 4, 1980 the union called on the government to implement the guideline in the public services. Till date it had not been implemented "whereas the private sector is already enjoying it".

Mr. Ejiofor recalled that since the payment

of the Udeji salaries and wages in 1975, the salaries of public servants on grade level 07 and above had remained static.

Distortion

He also recalled that with the introduction of N100 interim minimum wage in 1980 salaries grade 01 - 08 had been distorted to the extent that the lower levels now overlapped into the next higher-grade levels.

Anambra Employees' Strike Over

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 13 Mar 81 p 20

[Article by Emeka Mamah]

[Text]

THE industrial action embarked upon by civil servants in Anambra State has been called off. It lasted for three days.

The decision to call off the action was taken by the Joint Action Committee of the trade unions in the state after a meeting with the State Civil Service Commission (CSC) in Enugu last Wednesday.

In a statement issued after the meeting and which was jointly signed by the Secretary of the CSC, Mr S.N. Mgbemena and the chairman of the Joint Action Committee, Mr J.N. Okoli, both parties agreed that the commission "is to complete the release of 1980 promotions at the earliest opportunity".

They also agreed on the withdrawal of Section 3 (1d) and section 3 (ii) c of

the Commission's earlier circular which provides for promotions in the civil service to be based strictly on merit and for social consideration should be applied to satisfy the constitutional requirements of "geographical spread" which obviates historical deprivation.

Other issues agreed on were that section two of the said circular which stated that "there is no post in the civil service which cannot, in principle, be filled by direct appointment" should operate without prejudice to the interest of serving officers under the existing schemes of service.

The parties had also agreed to undertake to maintain open for the future, the channel of communications between them.

Doctors' Demands Analyzed

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 18 Mar 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Doctors and Their Demands"]

[Text]

FOR more than one week now, resident doctors have been on an industrial action, mainly over the demand of over-time allowances.

Anyone familiar with the organisation of the nation's public services would easily recognise that doctors are in the senior management category, in which case, they ought not in the first place be haggling with the Federal Government on over-time allowances.

To the best of our knowledge, it is only junior staff members in the public service that are aptly placed to make claims for work done beyond the stipulated 40-hour week. We can not believe that the doctors were unaware of this management fact.

The Federal Government, we feel, has been accommodative in conceding some over-time claims to the doctors at all.

We appreciate that members of the medical profession work at irregular hours and under great pressure, especially as the ratio of doctors to patients in the country at the moment is as low as one doctor to 12,500 people. This fact explains why our doctors have been treated differently from other senior officers in the civil service.

For instance, whereas fresh graduates from other disciplines are placed on grade level 08 step one, the doctors are employed on level 08 step three when they are doing their housemanship and level 08 step five when fully qualified.

Because doctors are seen as possessing special skills and because of their long training period, doctors have been placed above their counterparts. We therefore wonder why doctors have persistently been using these arguments for making new demands since 1974.

Rather than hold the nation to ransom, the doctors need to reconsider their stand to see if a demand for inconvenience allowances will not be more befitting than the demand for over-time claims.

We recognise the important place doctors occupy in the life of the nation. We also accept that they have to be given special preference in the scheme of things because of the nature of their job. But we do not agree that doctors are in a right position to demand for over-time allowances like the junior workers rather than inconvenience allowances which really befit their status in the public service and society.

We are convinced that they are actually agitating for the wrong cause and should go back to work in the national interest. They can then enter into dialogue with the Federal Government on the question of what other allowances can be given to them to compensate for the irregular hours they have to put up with in the discharge of their duties to the nation. This is certainly the most mature and appropriate approach to adopt.

NIGER CIVIL SERVANTS BARRED FROM TRIBAL, OTHER CLUBS

Circular Letter

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Ibrahim Ahmed Biu]

[Text]

CIVIL servants in Niger State have now been barred from participating or holding positions in tribal, youth, sectional and political associations by the government.

The state government has, therefore, directed that civil servants who were already holding offices in such associations should relinquish their posts or resign their appointments with the state civil service.

This was contained in a circular letter dated February 25, 1981, and signed by the state's Head of Service, Mr. James Kolo. The letter was copied to commissioners, permanent secretaries and heads of department.

The circular letter No.2 of 1981, said that the participation of civil servants in such associations was against section 04213 of the civil service regulation otherwise called the General Order (GO).

The letter was said to have been written on the instruction of the governor.

The circular also expressed the governor's concern over the involvement of civil servants in such associations which, he said, had led to a shift of loyalty from the state government to the associations on the part of the civil servants.

It said "civil servants may at

best give some form of support but should not hold offices in these associations."

The associations listed in the circular which civil servants are barred from holding posts were the Kambaki, Lapai, Kintako, Jima-Doko and Paiko Progressive associations.

Others were Minna Township Improvement Association, Gwari Elites Association, Lakabangi Wake Up Association, Dukawa Progressive Union, Ndaduma Development Association, Panku-ko Development Association and the Kontagora Youth Club.

Directive Deplored

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Mar 81 p 24

[Article by Ibrahim A. Biu]

[Text]

THREE development associations and one registered political party have sharply reacted against the recent directives issued by the Niger State Government barring civil servants from participating or holding positions in such associations.

They are the Pankuku, Akwabwagaje and Lakma Development Associations as well as the state branch of the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP).

The recognised associations and the political party condemned the directive and described it as unconstitutional and an attempt to deny civil servants their rights as guaranteed by our constitution.

These reactions were contained in three separate statements issued in Minna yesterday by the associations and the NPP.

Those who signed the statements were Mr. Peter Sarki, Malam Nuhu Baraje and Alhaji Saidu Galkogo, on behalf of Pankuku, Akwabwagaje and Lakma associations, respectively.

The NPP gubernatorial candidate in the last general elections in the state, Mr. Bawa Pada, signed on behalf of the party.

The associations argued that it was wrong for public servants

to be barred from participating in such associations because they had contributed immensely towards making the associations effective in assisting people in rural areas.

In its statement, the Pankuku Association said that the association was primarily established to advance the social, cultural and economic development of its area.

Similarly, the Akwabwagaje and Lakma associations said that they were non-political organisations and had strictly adhered to the provisions contained in section 15 of our constitution which allowed the establishment of such associations. They said that the membership of such associations cut across ethnic and religious barriers.

The associations also argued that section 04213 of the civil service regulations which was quoted in the directive issued only barred public officers from engaging in partisan politics and not in associations. They, therefore, appealed to the state government to review the directive.

The statement issued by the NPP cited sections 14(4), 15(3) and 37 of our constitution to prove the legality of the existence of such associations.

STILL 110 COMPANIES REPORTED NOT INDIGENIZED

Act in Effect

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 Mar 81 p 12

[Article by Edet Charles]

[Excerpt]

A TOTAL of 1,856 foreign companies in Nigeria have been indigenised from the time the Indigenisation Act was promulgated by the military. But there are still 110 foreign companies yet to be indigenised.

These fact was made known in Calabar by the Chairman of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board, Mr. Minso Gadzama.

Addressing the Cross River State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Gadzama dismissed as untrue, any impression created by the foreign companies not yet indigenised that they would no longer be affected by the act.

He said he and other members of the board were going round the country to correct this impression and to acquaint the Nigerian public with the progress made so far on the implementation of the Indigenisation Act.

During the tour, he would educate the public on new measures taken by his board to ensure compliance with the act, and offer explanation on other provisions of the act that had not been fully appreciated.

He said as of now, 500 new foreign companies had registered with the board after completing the necessary forms.

In the forms, the companies gave details of their equity shares and their proposed activity in Nigeria.

Mr. Gadzama further explained that the Indigenisation Act allowed nationals of OAU-member states to undertake any business activities in Nigeria provided Nigerians living in those countries were accorded the same privilege.

He observed that some companies were hesitant in complying with the Indigenisation Act because of the provision for workers' participation in the equity shares of the companies.

This provision, he said, was antitrenched in the act to give incentives and sense of belonging to workers and ensure industrial peace and harmony.

Mr. Gadzama strongly advised foreign companies to reserve 10 per cent of their shares for workers in order to narrow down chances of workers moving from one company to another.

He drew attention of the Chamber of Commerce to the recent re-classification of certain activities under the Indigenisation Act and explained that the exercise was aimed at encouraging increased investments in certain productive sectors of the economy to help curb smuggling.

Firms Closed for Non-Compliance

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 16 Mar 81 p 24

[Article by Moses Olorode]

[Text]

NIGERIAN Enterprises Promotion Board (NEPB) has sealed up six companies which failed to comply with the Indigenisation Act of 1977.

In a swift move to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Act, NEPB has also sent out its officials to supervise the management of seven other companies.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos on Friday, the Executive Chairman of the board, Malam Minso Gadzama said the affected companies would remain sealed until they complied with the Act.

The companies are, Edilit and Company Limited (Lagos), Renaissance Marble (Lagos) Onning Limited (Lagos), Nigeria Shoes and Handbag Company Limited (Lagos), Comazil Limited (Ibadan) and Swiss Lumber (Abakaliki).

The seven companies now being co-managed by NEPB officials include Weide and Company (Lagos), Neon Nigeria Limited (Lagos), Farisco Industries Nigeria Limited (Lagos) and Bhagson Nigeria Limited (Ibadan).

Others are Aridi Industries (Benin), Jechi Construction Limited (Benin) and Gabral Industries (W.A.) Limited also in Benin.

Explaining the action of the board, Malam Minso said all firms were expected to have complied with the Indigenisation Act since December 31, 1978.

He said the board had been 'soft' on the defaulting enterprises because of the consideration that many Nigerian workers against a handful of expatriates would lose

their jobs if such companies were sealed up.

'But it looks as if many expatriate firms are taking undue advantage of this humane approach and are dilly-dallying with compliance,' the executive chairman said.

He gave the defaulting companies three months within which to comply or face the consequences of their action.

On the Indigenisation Act itself, Malam Minso noted that its provisions aided the concentration of shares in one geographical area of the federation and in some individual hands.

The Act, he observed, had also caused lack of payment of dividends or declining dividends by the enterprises affected as well as poor performance and declining profits in such enterprises.

He blamed these anomalies on 'initial geopolitical setting' of the country which, he said, allowed for over concentration of all the financial institutions that deal with allotment and purchase of shares in one geographical area.

He named such financial institutions as Stock Exchange, Nigerian Acceptances Limited, ICON Limited, Capital Trust Brokers Limited, City Securities Limited.

Others, he said, include Chase Merchant Bank, Nigerian Merchant Bank Limited, Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry and the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank.

He therefore suggested that these institutions should spread their activities to all states of the federation where many businessmen hardly knew of their functions.

BRIEFS

RADAR FOR ALL AIRPORTS--Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Samuel Mafuyai, has said that radar coverage will be provided for Nigeria's entire airspace under the Fourth National Development Plan. Radar is the use of high-powered radio pulses reflected or regenerated, for locating objects or determining one's own position. Mr. Mafuyai told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in an interview on Thursday night that the provision of radar would help to improve Nigeria's Aviation Industry. He said that he was impressed with the progress of the first phase of radar institution project which was being completed at Kaduna, Kano, Port-Harcourt and Enugu airports. Mr. Mafuyai disclosed that the airlift of this year's intending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia would be handled by the Nigeria Airways while the Nigerian Pilgrims Board would only cater for the pilgrims' welfare. He said that the decision to hand over the airlift of the pilgrims to the national airline was in keeping with an act of the government and that preliminary talks had started at governmental level to ensure the success of the operation. Commenting on the proposed sale of Boeing 727 aircraft, the minister said that the management of Nigeria Airways (KLM) was not officially authorised to sell them, saying that the 727 would be the last type to be phased out. Mr. Mafuyai said that automated computerised reservation system for Nigeria Airways booking operation would start in April to facilitate passenger booking activities. (NAN) [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 28 Feb 81 p 16]

KEROSENE FOR VILLAGES--The multi-million Naira Kaduna Refinery has evolved a new plan for making kerosene easily available to people in the rural areas. The refinery has started producing kerosene in specially designed tins so that it could be taken to villages where modern forms of transportation do not easily reach. A senior official of the refinery was commenting on the impact of the refinery on the economy. The official said the refinery which was commissioned last April, had succeeded in removing the perennial fuel shortage in most parts of the country. Apart from providing jobs to about 1,600 Nigerians, the refinery "is striving to train Nigerian engineers for the eventual complete running of the refinery." On allegations that distributors and wholesalers who sell at retail prices would be doing so at a loss unless they charged above the market price, the official said distribution was done through accredited marketing companies like Unipetrol, African Petroleum, Agip, and Mobil as well as independent marketers appointed by the commercial division of the NNPC. The terminal prices of the products of the Kaduna Refinery, the official said, were fixed by the Federal Government which is heavily subsidising consumers of petroleum products.

The official also said the refinery has enabled the Nigeria Airways to operate its domestic services, especially from Kaduna, by readily making aviation fuel available to it. [Mohammed Bomo] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 4 Mar 81 p 24]

ABUJA PLOT ALLOCATION, ELECTRICITY--The Minister of charge of the Federal Capital Territory, Mr. John Kadiya, has said that allocation of plots in Abuja will begin on March 16. The minister said this on Tuesday while defending the budget allocation to his ministry before the House of Representatives Committee on the Capital Territory. Mr. Kadiya said phase one of the Federal Capital Territory has been commissioned and that this had made it possible for the allocation process to begin. He assured the committee that movement by the Federal Government to Abuja next year would be a reality. "I assure you that we shall move the government to Abuja in 1982. Electricity will be installed in the capital city by July and water by September," the minister declared, adding that work had begun on some priority projects in the territory. He told the committee that assurances had been given that the Presidential Guest House would be ready within the next 12 months. "We will completely settle the President, the Vice-President, the National Assembly, the judiciary and some key ministries in Abuja by the 30th of September 1982," he further assured. The minister appealed to the committee to give his ministry every possible assistance to make its efforts a reality. "Abuja is a special project and we are all involved in making it a huge success," he said. [Excerpt] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 5 Mar 81 p 16]

ANONYMOUS THREAT TO LEGISLATOR--A legislator who sponsored an amendment calling for the break-up of the Ibadan Municipal Government now lives in fear. Mr. Adediji Adegun, (Ibadan south-west constituency) received anonymous letter threatening his life for his action. The letter, dated February 28, 1981, warned Mr. Adegun that "you must be prepared for any eventuality that may arise from your action." Mr. Adegun was also charged with having the courage to confront a commissioner in the state over such a sensitive issue. Commenting on the letter yesterday, the speaker, Chief Mokolade Gbolagunte warned against any act of hooliganism over the issue. He advised those who hire thugs to harass legislators for their belief to find jobs for those sorts of people, he said. Chief Gbolagunte also called on Ibadan citizens to guard against confrontation over the issue saying "we should not be found to be doing ourselves." In an interview yesterday, the threatened legislator, Mr. Adegun said, he however still adhered to his belief that Ibadan Municipal Government should be split. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 5 Mar 81 p 2]

RELIGIOUS BAN STILL VALID--The Bauchi State Police Commissioner, Alhaji R. A. Laleye, has stressed that the state police command would not lift the ban placed on political and religious open-air activities as demanded by some "influential" persons. He said in a statement he issued last Thursday that the ban placed on religious and political public meetings was brought about by a situation, when the security of the state and particularly the public in general could not be adequately protected. Alhaji Laleye said, "As I have a duty to perform, I cannot take the risk of lifting the ban in the interest of those who consider themselves influential as this will be inimical to the peace and stability of the state. The police chief said it is hoped that situation would soon return to normal when

consideration would be given to the lifting of the ban. The police statement followed the receipt of "a number of applications and requests from either political parties or religious bodies for permits to hold public meetings," the police commissioner explained. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Mar 81 p 19]

GOVERNOR: DROP CENSUS FIGURES--A government has criticised the use of 1963 census figures for planning purposes. Governor Clement Isong of the Cross River State, said: "We should solicit for United Nations officials to conduct the census for us in order to get the correct number of our citizens." Speaking to reporters in Lagos, Governor Isong added: "We don't know the actual population of the country." He said most planning now was done like the UPE programme, which he claimed, the military regime planned without knowing the correct number of school pupils. Saying the biggest assignment of governors was development plans, he added: "All the governors must try and plan very well for their states, because it is our major problem." On revenue allocation, Dr. Isong said it was because the Constitution was not very clear on the subject that the President was taken to court. He said he asked for five per cent allocation for the oil-producing states, although this was not enough. "Even 30 per cent will not be enough for such states," he added, saying: "This is politics and I must always support the Federal Government." Speaking on local government, Dr. Isong said only the states could create more council areas. [Tony Ikhile] [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 7 Mar 81 p 32]

ABUJA WATER SHORTAGE--The acute shortage of water which has hit Abuja and part of Suleja for the past two weeks has now become chaotic. Housewives and servants now trek long distances to fetch gully water from ponds for their domestic use. The NEW NIGERIAN learnt that the current problem of water shortage posed imminent threat of outbreak of epidemic in the area. Already, a tin of water that cost 40 kobo early last month now sells at 1.20 Naira, while people in Abuja refer to offer soft drinks to visitors instead of water. People having cars also travel long distances before their cars could be washed in streams along Abuja-Kaduna road. Sources close to the Water Corporation of Suleja told the NEW NIGERIAN that drought and population increase in Suleja were the two main causes of the shortage and that efforts were being made to reduce the shortage. The Federal Capital Development Authority has taken some positive measures to see that its staff get steady supply of water. The Federal Capital Development Authority has acquired more water tankers to provide water to Abuja and areas being occupied by its staff in Suleja. [Jethro Olayemi] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 13]

PLATEAU LIFTS PREACHING BAN--The Plateau State Police Command has lifted the ban on open air religious preachings in the state with effect from last Thursday. A police bulletin issued in Jos at the week-end stated that the ban was lifted on the orders of the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Olatunji Ghadebo. The bulletin said that in giving the order, the commissioner was satisfied that there was a remarkable improvement in the circumstances which led to the imposition of the ban on January 2 this year. The commissioner, however, reminded intending open air preachers about the law requiring them to obtain police permits before embarking on such preachings. Meanwhile, the command has denied knowledge of

the presence of pools promoters in the state. In a statement issued by its Public Relations Department, the command said that it had received no request from the Plateau State Government to apprehend members of the public flouting the ban on pools betting in the state. The command was reacting to an allegation by the state Commissioner for Internal Affairs, Information, Printing and Protocol, Mr. Gideon Barde, that the police was not enforcing the ban on pools betting in the state. (NAN) [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 9]

POLICE OCCUPY MARBLE INDUSTRY--Armed policemen have occupied the Igbetti marble industry in Oyo State. After the occupation, an unusual calm hung over the marble town, about 121 kilometres from Oyo. Unofficial but dependable sources said the policemen arrived to keep order, after an announcement that the Federal Government had revoked the state government's licence to mine the marble. A town's spokesman, Mr. J. A. Adetoro, general secretary of the Igbetti Community Association, told the DAILY TIMES that the police presence caused a stir although the people were law-abiding. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 11 Mar 81 p 1]

ONITSHA AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION POSTPONED--Senate Committee on Transport and Aviation has ordered that the construction of an airport in Onitsha, Anambra State, be stopped. In its place, a new airport would now be constructed in Makurdi, Benue State. The decision to halt the project was taken by the committee on Tuesday when it met to consider this year's budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Aviation. Under the provisions in this year's appropriation bill for the expansion of airports in the country, a new airport was proposed for construction at Onitsha. The decision to alter the proposal in favour of Makurdi followed a motion moved by Senator Ameh Ebo. Senator Ebo had questioned the rationale behind the proposal to construct an airport at Onitsha, 60 kilometres from Enugu Airport. He said since an expressway to link Enugu and Onitsha is being constructed, it would be improper to construct an airport in Onitsha now, adding that Makurdi is one of the state capitals in the country that has no airport at the moment. The chairman of the committee, Senator Uba Ahmed, in his own observation, said "my committee will recommend to the Senate to urge the Executive arm of government to consider the Onitsha Airport project in the next budget." Also to be considered in the next budget, Senator Ahmed said, was the construction of airports at Igbono, in Oyo State, Katsina in Kaduna State. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 16]

CSO: 4420

SPPF BRANCH ELECTIONS GET OFF TO GOOD START

Elections in Six Districts

Victoria NATION in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 2, 8

[Excerpt]

ELECTIONS to the Seychelles People's Progressive Front branch executive committees started smoothly during the weekend in six districts.

Under the supervision of the Front's Central Executive Committee officials, SPPF members at Port Glaud, Anse Boileau, Plaisance, Cascade, Bel Air and Anse Louis Saturday afternoon and yesterday chose their new branch committees. These new committees will now stand for two years instead of one year. This change was decided on during last year's annual SPPF Congress.

High percentage of turnout were noted at all the elections. Among those voting at the weekend was the President of the SPPF and Head of State, Mr. France Albert René in the Bel Air district, and on Saturday, the elections at Port Glaud

and Anse Boileau were observed by the visiting Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) delegation accompanied by SPPF's Secretary General Mr. Guy Simon.

Before the elections started, the supervisors made sure everything was in order and clearly explained to the voters the ballot procedure. The successful candidates were congratulated after the elections by the supervisors from the Central Executive Committee who then stressed the necessity for the new committees and the branch members to work in close cooperation to the benefit of their communities.

The newly elected branch executive committees are made up as follows:

For Port Glaud the Chairman is Mrs Ginette Gamatis, Vice-Chairman Mr. Antonio Damoo; Secretary Miss Margaret Port Louis and Treasurer Mr. John Reine. The elected members are

Mr. Claude Simeon, Mr. Jolan Auguste, Mr. Sidney Hoareau, Miss Amida Jumaye, Miss Anne Tirant and Miss Lucie Bristol.

The elections at Port Glaud were supervised by Dr. Maxime Ferrari, SPPF's Vice President and Mr. Olivier Charles, a Central Executive Committee member.

At Anse Boileau the Chairman is Miss Simone Arnephy; Vice-Chairman Mr. Edmond Antat; Secretary Mr. France Naya and Treasurer Miss Juliana Antha. The elected committee members are Miss Laurita Savina, Mr. Michel Evnor, Mr. Alex Mend, Mr. Elzear Walter, Mr. Harry Mussard and Mr. Andre Pool.

The elections at Anse Boileau were supervised by Mr. Jacques Hodoul, the SPPF's Political Secretary and Mr. France Bounté, a Central Executive Committee member.

More Elections

Victoria NATION in English 15 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

ELECTIONS of five more Seychelles People's Progressive Front branch executive committees take place this weekend.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, SPPF members will vote at the English River social centre.

The Anse Etoile and Bel Ombre committees will be elected on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at the school and the branch office respectively. In the afternoon, again at 2 p.m. the Anse aux Pins members will elect their committee at the school while the Mont Fleuri elections will be held in the Seychelles College hall.

In keeping with the latest amendments to the SPPF constitution, the committees will be elected for two years instead of one, and all candidates have to fill in nomination forms. Formerly those standing for the posts of ordinary committee members were exempted from this, nominations being made by members at the actual elections.

Members wishing to contest this year's elections are reminded by the Secretary General's office to fill in their nomination forms as early as possible. The forms must be handed in at the branch offices or the central office at Le Chantier at least ten days before the election.

Members are also asked to ensure that their membership contributions are up to date if they are not to be disqualified from voting.

SAP

CSO: 4420

PRESIDENT RENE CALLS FOR FULL RECOGNITION OF SADR

Victoria NATION in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text]

PRESIDENT France Albert René, on behalf of the Republic of Seychelles, has called for the immediate recognition of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic as a legitimate member state of the Organisation of African Unity.

In a special message yesterday to the current OAU chairman, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, Mr. René points out that under Article 28 of the OAU Charter, signed by all member states, the SADR qualified for admission as a full member of the Organisation last July.

Under Article 28, the admission of new independent African states to the OAU is decided by a simple majority of member states.

President René points out in his message that at the Freetown OAU Heads of State summit last July, when President Stevens took over the chairmanship of the Organisation, a majority of the 50 member states, including Seychelles and Sierra Leone, did

in fact vote to admit the SADR as a member.

However, since then nothing has happened to apply the decision officially and Mr. René describes this as a "flagrant violation of Article 28 ..."

The full text of President René's message is as follows:

"In your capacity as current Chairman of the OAU, I am compelled to draw your attention to and request your most immediate action concerning a matter which, while threatening the internal cohesion of our organisation, has already damaged its credibility in the eyes of the outside world.

I am referring to the question of the non-admission of the SADR as a member of the OAU resulting from the persistent refusal of the Execu-

tive Secretary General to comply with the provision of Article 28 of the Charter.

Your Excellency is well aware that a majority of member states, including your own country and mine, have informed the General Secretariat since last July that they are in favour of the admission of the SADR as a member of our organisation.

For the past eight months we have waited in vain for official notification from the General Secretariat that the SADR has become the 51st member of the OAU. This failure constitutes a flagrant violation of Article 28.

Recently, during the 36th session of the Council of Ministers, the Executive Secretary General tried to justify himself. He informed my Minister of Foreign Affairs, among others, that he was of the opinion that the question of the admission of the SADR had been referred to the ad hoc committee of heads of

state by a decision of the Freetown summit. He even alleged that you concurred with him on this matter.

You know very well that the Executive Secretary General is having recourse to a misrepresentation of the decision reached in Freetown and in any event his personal views and interpretations of our decisions are irrelevant.

You well know that in Freetown we never did nor did we intend to refer the question of the admission of the SADR to the *ad hoc* committee as we were all aware that this is a purely administrative matter governed by Article 28. We never intended, implicitly or otherwise, to amend the Charter. We only decided to request the *ad hoc* committee to consult with all the parties concerned in order to find a peaceful solution to the armed conflict.

In fact the question of admission was, rightly, not even raised during the subsequent meeting of the *ad hoc* committee which you convened in Freetown last September.

I now wish to put it on record that my country dissociates itself from the violation of the sovereign right and expressed wish of the people of Western Sahara that their country, the SADR, should become a member of our organisation and that the Republic of Seychelles will regard any further prolongation of such violation as an intolerable injustice.

I am therefore solemnly requesting you to see to it that the Executive Secretary General complies with Article 28 of the Charter and notifies the SADR of its admission as a member of the OAU.

Unless the situation is remedied forthwith, I will consider taking further action after consultation with those of my brothers who, like me, will not tolerate our countries' stand on this matter being flouted any longer. It is your duty to impress upon the Executive Secretary General that he must respect the views of the majority of member states as the Charter compels him to do.

I thank you, Excellency and dear brother, for your diligent action concerning this most serious issue."

NYERERE, IN TRANSIT, GETS ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME

Victoria NATION in English 17 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text]

CCHEERS and a militant salute from the Young Pioneer Movement greeted President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania when he arrived in Seychelles yesterday on a four-hour transit stop en route to official visits to Japan and the Far East.

As the CCM-1 Presidential aircraft landed at Seychelles airport at 2 p.m. yesterday, President Albert René proceeded to the aircraft steps to receive his counterpart with a warm embrace.

A young boy of the Pioneer Movement presented Dr. Nyerere with a basket of Seychelles fruits while Mrs. Nyerere received a bouquet of flowers from a young girl militant.

Then another member of the Young Pioneers donned a scarf around the neck of the Tanzanian leader and as both Presidents looked on, the young man snapped a salute and led the way to an honour guard mounted by his colleagues.

Striding hand-in-hand the two leaders received a revolutionary salute from the over 60 young boys and girls who had lined up from the foot of the plane.

President René later introduced his guest to members of the SPPF Central Executive Committee, ministers, members of the Defence Council and other party and government leaders before the party drove off to the National Youth Service Village at Port Launay via Montagne Posée Road. Along the route the motorcade was cheered by schoolchildren, as well as adults.

On arrival at Port Launay Village, Dr. Nyerere and Mr. René were jubilantly received by members of the National Youth Service who had lined

up both sides of the entrance road to their village clapping and waving their berets in welcome.

Upon alighting from the Presidential car, the Tanzanian visitor was this time donned with an NYS beret and red scarf.

Then still smiling, he proceeded to specially arranged seats by the seaside with his hosts, including the NYS Chief Coordinator, Mrs. Florence Benstrong, and Cabinet ministers.

While refreshments were served and the Village band sang and played revolutionary songs, the Seychelles and Tanzanian leaders exchanged views on subjects of mutual interests.

Afterwards, President Nyerere spoke to representatives of national and international news media. The return trip to the airport was via Val

rich road and again many people saw the motorcade pass by.

After a short wait in the VIP lounge, President René saw off the Tanzanian leader who is accompanied by his wife, Mama Maria, the Minister for Finance, Mr. Amir Jamal, the Minister of State in the President's Office, Mr. George Kahama and a large party of senior government officials.

'Links Between Seychelles and Tanzania Could Be Even Stronger'

TANZANIAN President Julius Nyerere said he was pleased with the development of relations between Seychelles and Tanzania, especially at Government level, but said a little more should be done to bring together the political parties of the two countries.

"We must develop our relationship between our two parties," the President told Seychellois journalists at a press conference at Port Launay yesterday, adding that it was not enough for links to remain at Head of State or Government level alone.

Dr. Nyerere said the two countries have cooperated and worked together in the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement and at the United Nations.

"We could do a little more than we are doing now," the Tanzanian leader said, adding that bilateral cooperation

between the two countries in the sphere of trade ought to be increased.

On the security of the Indian Ocean area as a zone of peace, President Nyerere said his country has always advocated that the Indian Ocean area should be a nuclear-free zone.

"The big powers appear to be intensifying their military activities in the Indian Ocean," the President said. When would the big powers accept the position of the countries in the Indian Ocean and Eastern Africa, he asked.

While decrying the position of some countries in the region which have consented to be used by the big powers as bases for continued militarisation of the area, the Tanzanian President called upon countries in the Indian Ocean to join together and discourage the use of the Ocean as a base for big power rivalry.

Responding to a question based on the wild prophecy of doom about Tanzania by some sectors of the Western media that problems facing Tanzania reflected the unworability of the country's socialist option, President Nyerere said all countries of Third World had immense problems, Tanzania being no exception. But there was no proof that countries in the Third World following a capitalist path of development were doing any better.

Dr. Nyerere added that they were sharing what little they have more equally. "Our people would be worse off without the policies of socialism."

SAP

DETAILS ON PRESIDENT RENE'S NEW BOOK GIVEN

Victoria NATION in English 15 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A HISTORIC book called *The Torch of Freedom* will be published at the end of this month narrating the liberation struggle of the people of Seychelles led by President France Albert René.

Published by the Ministry of Education and Information in hard-cover and paper-back editions and illustrated with photographs on the achievements of the SPPF's predecessor, the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP), the book is a collection of editorials written by Mr René which appeared in *The People* — the progressive party newspaper during the days of the heroic struggle from 1964 to 1977.

It also includes selected speeches made by the President over the 13 years that the people of Seychelles fought and struggled for total liberation.

"The book tells the story of this battle — the struggle of

a people to gain their freedom, dignity and pride as a sovereign nation and 'to give our country her rightful place under the sun', writes Mr James Michel, Minister of Education and Information, in his introduction to the book.

Mr Michel, also the Publicity Secretary of the SPPF, has done most of the research and compilation of the book which has been edited by members of staff of the Department of Information and is being printed by the Printing Division.

Writes Mr Michel in his introduction: "The year 1964 was a momentous one in the history of Seychelles, though at its outset conditions in the country were much as they

had been for decades. The Seychellois people, with the exception of a privileged few, were living in abject poverty and were subjected to all forms of exploitation... The colonial machine was functioning well and to the satisfaction of those who ruled over us..."

The return to the country of the Leader of the Revolution, the king-pin of our struggle, Mr Albert René, turned the balance of forces in favour of the Seychellois people, who were then "the living testimony" of the evils of the colonial system, he adds.

The book is historic and is essential reading for present and future generations because it records all the crucial phases in the liberation process of this country.

SAP

HODOUL CALLS FOR INCREASED THIRD WORLD TRADE

Victoria NATION in English 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jacques Hodoul, has called for increased trade and commercial exchange among Third World countries as one way of rectifying the "present world economic disorder".

Minister Hodoul told Seychelles Agence Presse in an interview yesterday that the only salvation for the poor, developing countries of the South was through fixing prices of their own produce, increased bilateral trade and technical cooperation and not through wasting their time in a monologue with the rich North.

"We have to start looking at our neighbouring countries in our own region. Let us take stock of what they produce that we can buy from each other. When we buy from countries of the North, we actually enrich them," he said.

Re-asserting that the present world economic system essentially entails the trans-

fer of wealth from the poor to the rich, Mr. Hodoul said developing countries were actually making the situation worse through trading with the rich North even when certain products were readily available regionally.

"How many countries are importing beer from Europe for example? How many import even matches, which could be obtained in a neighbouring country?"

Minister Hodoul criticised the colonial mentality, the result of the Third World's colonial past, of believing that goods imported notably from Western capitalist countries were "always of better quality" than some goods produced in our own countries.

"It is a sad reality, but we must admit it and this is

something that has got to change."

Mr. Hodoul said one way towards economic emancipation for Third World countries would be to emulate some positive elements of the conduct of OPEC countries which "are today calling their own tune" as far as oil is concerned.

Third World countries must stop playing the role of mere producers of raw materials, he added, because they have the capability to produce technicians and the more fortunate of them with natural wealth can become industrialised if only they can come up with viable projects.

SAP

RUPEE REVALUED TO COMBAT INFLATION

Victoria NATION in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

AS PART of a package of measures designed to bring down price inflation in the country, the government has decided to re-value the Seychelles rupee by 15 per cent.

The existing rate of SR 8.3197 per one Special Drawing Right (the World Bank unit) will be replaced by a new rate of SR 7.2345 per one SDR with effect from yesterday, a communiqué from the Seychelles Monetary Authority said.

On a trade-weighted basis, the average exchange rate of the rupee has depreciated by 5.4 per cent since November 5, 1979 when it was pegged to the SDR.

This has contributed in part to the price inflation in the country although the major cause of an increase of 13.5 per cent in the Retail

Price Index for 1980 would be attributed to inflation at the sources of supply abroad.

Since Seychelles is a highly open economy with annual imports equivalent to 75 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product, the Government feels that the level of import prices in terms of the rupee is a crucial factor in the rate of inflation in the country, the communiqué added.

The Government has therefore, decided that the exchange rate of the Seychelles rupee should be adjusted by a margin which is large enough not only to correct the depreciation it has suffered so far but also to offset to some extent the price inflation imported from the sources of supply. Hence a revaluation rate of 15 per cent has been adopted.

Seychelles achieved a record balance of payments

surplus of SR 48.6m. in 1980 and its external reserves stood at a very high level of SR 164.8m at the end of the year.

The Government feels that its external account position is sufficiently strong to withstand any payment pressures generated by the revaluation measure.

To enable the banks to carry out any necessary adjustments to the new exchange rate, they were instructed by the Monetary Authority to suspend all foreign exchange transactions for one day yesterday but were authorised to meet the emergency requirements of tourists.

The revaluation does not mean that prices in the shops will immediately fall by 15 per cent, but Seychelles will be able to import goods more cheaply and consumers will eventually feel the benefit in real cash terms.

Communiqué/SAP

MILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN HIT

Victoria NATION in English 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

AN important resolution on the security of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace featured prominently at the 36th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which ended at the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa last week.

A few days earlier the foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement meeting in New Delhi, India, had adopted a resolution on the same subject.

But no sooner had the ink on the resolutions dried than there were alarming reports that, despite calls by the OAU, the Non-aligned Movement and the United Nations to turn the area into a zone of peace, free from big power confrontation, the United Kingdom

had given permission to the United States to expand its military facilities, comprising an air and naval base, on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

The up-grading of facilities on Diego Garcia follows a visit to the United States by the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, recently. Mrs Thatcher's government has reportedly agreed to allow the United States to station giant B-52 bombers, other aircraft and helicopters, including new long-range bombers and more of the sophisticated M-1 tanks which the US has developed for its arsenal.

The Reagan administration, it is reported, is seeking more funds to "improve" Diego Garcia

to accommodate the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) set up to "protect" U.S. interests in the region.

Certainly for the Indian Ocean states, such reports amount to nothing short of a threat to their territorial integrity. The small states in the Indian Ocean, including our own country, cannot help feeling threatened because they know that the real motive or intention of such a massive military build-up cannot be in their interest.

As the OAU, the Non-aligned Movement and the United Nations have had occasion to point out in respective resolutions, the presence of foreign military bases in the area does not augur well for

world peace. On the contrary, the presence of big power bases only exacerbates tension in the area.

Therefore we ask: when, oh when, will these big powers and foreigners learn to respect the wishes of the peoples of the Indian Ocean and understand that we want the Indian Ocean to become a zone of peace and not a springboard for long-range bombers?

Is it too much to ask?

CSO: 4420

REPORTAGE ON SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Cheaper Fuel

Victoria NATION in English 7 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Electricity consumers in Seychelles may pay less for commodity once a cheaper type of fuel at the new power station is introduced later this year.

The General Manager of the Seychelles Electricity Corporation, Mr. Jim Romanos said yesterday that the Shell Company, acting in co-operation with the SEC are arranging to use a different cheaper type of fuel called "heavy fuel oil" to be imported into the country in the next few months. Currently the corporation uses "diesel gas oil" to generate present power.

Said Mr. Romanos: "Using that sort of oil costs 91 cents for every unit of electricity sold to the public. That amount is 70 per cent of the selling price which averages one rupee 29 cents per unit."

The new type of fuel planned for use is cheaper by 20 per cent than gas oil, Mr. Romanos added.

The General Manager said Shell Company have agreed to import the new type of oil into Seychelles, and to keep adequate stock.

Mr. Romanos said the Electricity Corporation plans to carry out the conversion process by the last quarter of this year when design and financial arrangements would have been concluded.

"The price of gas oil has risen significantly in the last three years and it will appear that it will continue to rise in the foreseeable future. That is why we consider it economical to convert to this cheaper but less convenient fuel," Mr. Romanos said.

The General Manager said the planned conversion into cheaper fuel would entail "an immediate reduction" in the selling of electricity to consumers.

He added: "Even if the international price of oil does not let us reduce the selling price, we will still be able to hold the prices down compared to running on the present fuel."--SAP

Use of Wood Bits

Victoria NATION in English 14 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] For the first time in Seychelles, electricity has been generated without using expensive fuel from petroleum.

"It is a historic occasion for us," Dr Maxime Ferrari, the Minister of Planning and Development, said at a demonstration on Thursday at the New Port, when six lamps of one kilowatt each were brightly lit by a generator running on energy from wood bits.

Supplied by the Swedish Berjes Institute, this simple alternative process of generating electricity is much cheaper than using diesel oil motors, because waste materials such as wood bits and coconut shells for fuel are abundant and readily available in Seychelles, particularly on the outer islands.

The producer gas plant was designed and built by Mr Kjell Alfrensen and the experiment supervised by Dr Bjorn Kjellstrom and Professor Kristofferson of the Swedish Institute in the presence of Dr Ferrari, the Swedish Consul in Seychelles, Mr Anders Rydin Svensen, and several other interested guests.

Onlookers watched as wood bits fed into a cylindrical tank and then lit. After a few minutes a gas mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide from the tank started and turned on an eight-cylinder Volvo car engine, which was attached to a small generator. Though only six kilowatts of electricity were generated, the Swedish scientists maintain that the gas produced from the waste wood bits is capable of turning the engine to give up to 30 kilowatts of electricity.

The new machine needs more tests before installation for everyday use. Further studies are being carried out to find the most economic and suitable waste materials for fuel. The machine also needs an automatic control system that will increase or decrease the engine revolutions according to the load on the generator. Operation and maintenance training, as well as studies to determine if the machine can be mass-produced locally, are also planned.

Minister Ferrari said Government intends to install one of these new generating sets on each of the outer islands.

"Then we can really start talking about the development of the outer islands," he added. "Once these machines have been installed, there will be no need to transport fuel for them as the outer islands will produce electricity from their own resources of waste vegetable materials."

The successful operation of the electricity-from-wood machine is the first step forward in the implementation of the Government's project to find alternative energy sources.

Seychelles also intends to develop alternative energy systems from wind, sun and other natural sources of power, and the National Research and Development Council

and the Research and Development Department of the Ministry of Planning and Development are working in close collaboration in this field. They are being helped by the Berjes Institute following contacts made by Minister Ferrari recently.

The team who worked on the machine have expressed their thanks to the staff of the Seychelles Public Transport Corporation's new workshop who worked throughout the night to help fix the generator on to the wood-powered engine in time for the experiment, particularly Mr G. Singh, Mr B. Gupta, Mr E. Talma, Mr R de Commarmond and Mr J. Ho-Tive.--SAP

Sea Power

Victoria NATION in English 18 Mar 81 p 2

[Text]

RESEARCH WORK will be carried out in Seychelles aimed at developing "power packages", using alternative energy, for the outer islands.

Energy from the sea is one potential source of electrical power that will be looked at by the National Research and Development Council (NRDC) as part of the Seychelles integrated energy project.

If the small-scale power units are successfully developed, they will be of particular benefit on the Government-owned outer islands which have been designated for rapid growth.

Phase One of the integrated project deals with development of 50-100 kw units and their installation on the five islands of Astove, Coetivy, Desroches, Farquhar and Providence within the next three to five years, says a press release from the NRDC.

Such "power packages" will help these islands to realise their full productive potential, will provide a more acceptable life-style for both the workers and their families and will ensure the maintenance of communications so necessary to comparatively isolated communities.

They will also provide the facilities which would enable some tourism to be included within the islands' overall development.

Even, however, if such a package can be produced, its capability is likely to remain small, by comparison with the requirements of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, where the present power production is in thousands of kilowatts.

While a reduction of power usage could undoubtedly be achieved by, for instance,

solar water-heaters, refrigerators and air-conditioners, there would appear to be no way in which a major proportion of the load could be taken over by such energy packages, says the NRDC.

The Council will be investigating relatively new and undeveloped technologies, particularly in the sea — a vast resource of untapped energy, which is only now being explored as an alternative energy source.

Many schemes have been proposed, and some tried, by the developed nations for extracting wave energy, tidal energy and heat energy from the sea, but great problems exist due, largely, to the hostile nature of the environment in terms of weather, corrosion etc.

Such projects are by their very nature extremely large and costly and defy solution on a pilot plant scale. For

any but the very wealthy nations. therefore, primary research and development of such schemes is prohibitive. though feasibility studies of potential sites could be carried out, says the NRDC.

Again, by their nature, both wave and tidal energy schemes involve vast infrastructures, which might be unacceptable in an island environment devoted largely to tourism.

One scheme, however, seems not to be subject to these problems — the thermal energy system. This relies on the differences of temperature between surface water and water from depths of 500 to 1000 metres, or more. Provided that a suitable site can be found, the generating equipment could be located at sea, or perhaps built to the relatively shallow continental shelf which surrounds Seychelles and could be capable of supplying the total power needs of Mahé from one such installation.

Again this technology is in its infancy, but pilot scale plants are already operating, reportedly satisfactorily.

Communiqué/SAP

CSO: 4420

TOURISM BOOST EXPECTED FROM GULF STATES

Victoria NATION in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] Increased co-operation in tourism and other fields of development is expected out of a three-week trip to the Gulf oil states by the Minister for Transport and Tourism, Mr. Matthew Servina.

Assurances on tourism, air communications and other co-operation were given to Minister Servina and his two-man delegation by Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iraq.

The general manager of Air Seychelles, Mrs. Mary Stravens, and airport commander, Mr. George Joyce, were also in the delegation, which returned home on Monday morning.

The on-the-spot study of the Gulf region as a potential tourist market, as the trip was described by Mr. Servina, forms part of the Ministry's policy to diversify existing markets.

Although Seychelles is trying to entice tourists from Spain and Scandinavia to supplement the traditional European markets of the United Kingdom, France, West Germany and Italy, serious efforts are also being made to move into the Far East, Middle East and Latin America.

Minister Servina said that the Gulf states had much respect for Seychelles as an independent, serious and hard-working country and expressed the desire to establish closer development links in various fields.

Already Seychelles actively co-operates with Iraq at party and government levels. Minister Servina said it was encouraging to see a country so willing to help those less fortunate than her even during the hard times that come with war.

As far as his ministry is concerned, Mr. Servina pointed out that as well as visitors from the Gulf, Seychelles hopes to encourage the many Far Eastern tourists who visit the region to stop over for a few days on our islands.

Extensive talks on civil aviation links were also held, and delegations from some of the countries visited are expected in Seychelles later this year to follow up on specific avenues of co-operation.--SAP

CSO: 4420

FERRARI DISCUSSES AGRARIAN REFORM, LAND DISTRIBUTION

Victoria NATION in English 7 Mar 81 p 2

[Interview with Dr Maxime Ferrari, minister of development and planning, by Makwala Kuhenga]

[Text]

THE QUESTION of Agrarian Reform has faced many countries in the Third World, just triumphed over a colonial or neo colonial status quo and the Republic of Seychelles being no exception. Dr. Maxime Ferrari, the Minister for Development and Planning in the following interview with SAP Correspondent Makwala Kuhenga reviews the progress the Republic has made in distributing land and providing housing to the people since Liberation :

Question : We are going to discuss, Dr. Ferrari, the question of land in the Republic since the triumph of the Revolution. Agrarian reform, as you are aware, has been the concern of all revolutionary processes. Since liberation, how has the Government gone about to ensure that the people derive the maximum benefit from their land ?

Minister Ferrari : Seychelles being a small country, land tends to be more precious than in larger countries. One of the most important elements required for development after the revolution was for the new

revolutionary Government to give a lot of thought to the problem of land. Before the triumph of the Revolution, the price of land was governed by speculation. Coming into power, the first thing the new government did was to impose new legislation to allow the Government to acquire land on equitable terms. This having been done, the programme of land ownership by the people of this country has been remarkable. We have made available small acreages of agricultural land to small farmers. We have created state farms in order to produce more food

and become more and more self-sufficient. We have acquired a number of islands in order to boost agricultural production. Land has also been acquired for housing and our housing programme has indeed been better than ever before. And everywhere one goes, houses are being built. Land has also been acquired to build community centres, schools, creches and other meaningful development projects. And this programme continues. Indeed, we are nowhere near the end of it — the policy being to make available to the people all the services they require in their endeavour to produce national wealth.

Q : How many privately owned islands are there in the Republic and what is the Government policy towards them ?

A : There are about 100 islands altogether in Seychelles. Many of the coral islands are grouped together to form an atoll. About half a dozen of these were in private hands. And we have since acquired for the state neglected coral islands. Four of these are in private hands — and they are being properly managed. There are a number of granitic islands in private hands that are being mismanaged.

Q : The other day, Minister, you toured Silhouette and you spoke of the pressing need for the Government to examine closely the economic and social deterioration on that island. Would you say Silhouette is an isolated case — and if not — what is being done to rectify the situation?

A : Silhouette is not an isolated case. Silhouette will need a substantial investment just to prop it back to what the island was ten years ago. It had a population of 500 people who worked and lived on this island. Because of lack of proper management, this population has gone down — to 300 people. And the social development has regressed considerably. It is the duty of the Government to revive hope and dignity in this population which has been totally neglected by the owners.

Q : Currently, Government is engaged in a war against poverty, ignorance and disease. Along this front, there is also Government concern that the people are provided with adequate housing of their own. Do you have any programme of action in the offing towards this end?

A : We have a very important programme to re-house the people. We believe so much in the policy of allowing every Seychellois to own his/her own house so much so that we have gone as far as considering this venture as part of the social security.

How can we talk of social security when we have homeless people? That is why, in order to do this enormous programme, we are investing the largest shares of the social-security fund into Seychelles Housing Development Corporation at absolutely no interest. On the other hand, we have created new villages providing loans to individuals to build their own houses. Well over 1,000 new houses have been built since liberation and investment infusion of funds in houses and infrastructure is to the tune of R. 100 million. The housing loans we offer to the people bear an interest which is commensurate with what the people can afford. The period of repayment is also commensurate with the economic status of the borrower. We have also provided loans and grants to a

large number of people to repair or extend their houses. More and more land will be made available until such a time as every Seychellois will be able to own his own house. We are now working on a land legislation which will allow people to purchase their rented houses or accommodation from their respective landlords. All this will be done in compliance with our resolve and policy of ownership of one's house and to eventually realise a society with no landlords.

Q : Being actively responsible for planning and development in this country under a socialist programme, do you look back at the last five years of the Revolution with satisfaction?

A : Yes, indeed! since we have been talking about housing, it is a great satisfaction to see houses mushrooming all over the country. It is a matter of great satisfaction for instance to visit Pointe Larue and talk to the new owners and witness their deep joy and gratitude for owning their own houses. It is wonderful to note how well they look after their houses. This satisfaction is in many other projects that we have inspired or created since the triumph of the Revolution. The joy and determination on the faces of the youth of the National Youth Service speaks for itself. Indeed, one feels reassured that already a new, more dynamic, more hardworking and a more happier generation is in sight.

FAMILIES SETTLING IN AT NEW LA GOGUE VILLAGE

Victoria NATION in English 14 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Text]

ONLY three months after construction started, 22 families have already moved into their new homes at the La Gogue village, visited yesterday by the Minister of Planning and Development, Dr. Maxime Ferrari.

By June this year, housing and site officials confidently predict, 28 more houses will have been added to the village. This is situated on over five hectares of hillside and valley between Maldives village to the south and the dirt road leading to nearby La Gogue dam.

Meanwhile, Government is studying the allocation of more plots for agricultural development on the 88-hectare state property bought in 1978, which includes the village.

Dr. Ferrari's party included Mr. Robert Grandcourt, Principal Secretary in the Department of Economic Development, Planning and Housing and chairman of the

Seychelles Housing Development Corporation, Mr. Leon Michaud, SHDC general manager, and other housing and ministry officials.

They noted with satisfaction the relatively large plots allowing residents to plant crops and keep livestock. At an average size of 1,000 square metres (1/4 acre) the La Gogue plots are double the size of those in the Pointe Larue estate.

Touring the village, talking to residents, and inspecting one or two of their homes, the visitors noticed a variety of root crops, vegetables and even banana, mango and breadfruit trees being grown. One family had a chicken run and a cow comfortably fitted on to their plot.

Almost all the houses are of prefabricated wood panels, neat stacks of which can be seen at the store near the road going to the dam. The houses have been built mainly by the residents or by small contractors under the supervision and with the help of SHDC.

The average house had three rooms and a semi-detached kitchen and bathroom.

It was originally intended to fit more houses into the area, but now that the village has been limited to 50 families the spaciousness and coolness of the slopes on which it rests is striking. Some houses even have a lovely view of the inner islands.

Apart from the 22 families in residence, five more houses have been completed and 16 more houses or plots are being worked on.

The road network and water and electricity supplies have yet to be set up but the priority is to provide the families with shelter.

The La Gogue scheme is part of European Economic Community-Seychelles Government project worth over R 20 million and which started at Pointe Larue. The project provides homes and services for 245 families. Since 1977 no less than R 100 million has been spent on housing.

But the Government's development of the area will not end there.

Several residents commented on the richness of the soil and planning, housing and agricultural officials hope to get together soon to discuss the use of the rest of the state land.

Priority will go to agriculturally-oriented residential plots of between 2,000 square metres (1/2 acre) and nearly a hectare (two acres), depending on the terrain. These plots will be allocated to families wishing to do some serious agriculture. Minister Ferrari suggested that they could get financial help from the Development Bank as well as the usual housing loans.

A few plots will be reserved for emergency cases and a special fund is set aside for this.

The La Gogue scheme is the last major self-contained housing project with the exception of a complete new village at North East Point which is still in the planning stage. Once these are over, housing officials will concentrate solely on the current district housing programme of integrating individual plots into existing communities.--SAP

CSO: 4420

CENSUS UPDATE TO START IN APRIL

Victoria NATION in English 13 Mar 81 p 2

[Text]

BASIC information on the population and its movements, housing, education, employment, agriculture and other related social and economic activities will be updated during a series of surveys starting next month on Mahé.

This is part of a new national census updating exercise which will last about a year.

The purpose of the surveys is not only to update existing information collected from the 1977 General Census but also to make accurate data readily available on each of the districts of Seychelles.

"This is particularly interesting", a spokesman for the Statistics Division said, "because whereas Seychelles was previously divided into parishes it has now been re-divided into electoral districts.

"Beau Vallon, for example, never existed as a parish before, while Anse Royale district now covers a bigger area than when it was a parish".

"Once the exercise has been carried out, the Statistics Division will be in a position to readily provide basic information on each district, particularly now that Government is proposing physical development plans for district community projects. The survey will provide invaluable information in the drafting of such plans."

Beau Vallon, because it is a new, separate district, has been chosen as the place to begin the surveys early in April.

"It will be a test enumeration", the spokesman said.

"As in the 1977 Census, simple questions relating to the number of people living in the house, their employment, movements, education and other activities will be asked with the assurance that the information will be gathered in confidence.

"We hope that after twelve months all the districts of Sey-

chelles will have been enumerated, the country's total population counted, and other necessary information gathered for analysis," the spokesman said.

President Albert René has already issued the Census Proclamation 1981, fixed April 1, 1981 to March 31, 1982 as the Census period and appointed the Chief Statistician as Census Commissioner.

SAP

BRIEFS

MALDIVES MINISTER LEAVES--The Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Fathullah Jameel, has left Seychelles after a two-day transit stop. Mr. Jameel, who was accompanied by the Deputy Director of the Department of Finance of Maldives, Mr. Adam Maniku, met the Foreign Minister Jacques Rodoul and also visited the Port Launay Youth Village which impressed him greatly. "This is something that interests us very much and we would like to be informed about its evolution. We might even start something similar in the Maldives," said Mr. Jameel. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 11 Mar 81 p 1]

SPPF ELECTIONS--Elections of the SPPF branch executive committees are continuing this weekend in the Beau Vallon, Grand'Anse Frasin, Baie Ste. Anne, La Digue and Glacis districts. Elections in Beau Vallon and Grand'Anse will be held tomorrow and then on Sunday morning it will be the turn of the Baie Ste. Anne and Glacis districts. The SPPF members of La Digue will choose their new committee on Sunday afternoon. Next weekend it will be the turn of the Mont Buxton, Takamaka, Grand'Anse Mahe, Baie Lazare and Anse Royale districts. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 20 Mar 81 p 1]

MINISTER BERLOUIS IN TRIPOLI--The Minister of Defence, Mr. Ogilvy Berlouis, left Seychelles on Saturday for official talks in Tripoli, capital of the Libyan Jamahiriya. He will also deliver a personal message from President Albert Rene to President Gaddafi. Minister Berlouis is accompanied by Major Roly Marie of the Seychelles People's Defence Force and by Mr. Habib Deeb, Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Seychelles. On Tuesday, Minister Berlouis called on Brigadier General Abubak Yunas Jabir of the armed force of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in his office in Tripoli.--SAP [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 19 Mar 81 p 2]

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